Bengaluru Thursday, December 4, 2025 Pages 16 Vol 78 No 334 ₹7

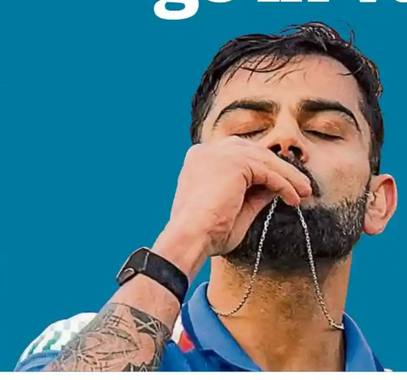
www.deccanherald.com Follow us on @deccanherald

DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Kohli, Gaikwad hundreds go in vain

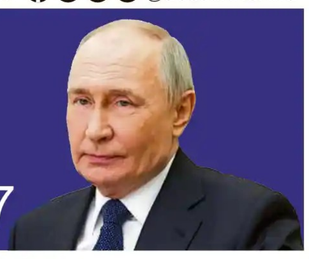


South Africa chase 359 to level ODI series

Page 16

Nation

Putin begins two-day India visit from today; Modi to host dinner P.7



State

Prajwal to remain in jail, HC declines to suspend sentence P.4

World

US halts immigration from 19 countries **P.12**

Nation

Retail price must on pan masala packs **P.11**

Quickly

Plaint against Ranveer over 'Kantara' act

An advocate in Bengaluru has lodged a complaint against Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh for "hurting religious sentiments" after the actor recently mimicked the 'Daiva' (Bhuta Kola) role of actor Rishab Shetty in the movie 'Kantara'. The High Grounds police acknowledged the complaint lodged by Prashanth Metal on Wednesday. "I am filing this complaint to bring to your immediate attention the illegal and offensive actions of Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh...," he said. Details on Page 2

Collision between car, tractor leaves four dead

Four youngsters died when the car they were travelling in rammed a sugarcane-laden tractor near Jamkhandi, Bagalkot district, in the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday. The deceased have been identified as Praveen Shedabala (22), Ganesh Allimatti (20), Vishwanath Kambara (17) and Prajwal Shedabala (17). The four were headed to Shirola village to watch a programme at a local temple fair. Details on Page 4

Govt revokes order on preloading Sanchar Saathi app

Cites 'increasing acceptance' of app to justify U-turn

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union government on Wednesday revoked its direction to phone manufacturers to mandatorily pre-install state-run Sanchar Saathi cybersecurity app on all mobile phones amid widespread criticism from the Opposition and civil rights activists against the directive.

The government cited "increasing acceptance" of the contentious app to justify the U-turn. "Given Sanchar Saathi's increasing acceptance, the government has decided not to make the pre-installation mandatory for mobile manufacturers," the Ministry of Communications said in a statement.

The ministry claimed the app recorded a 10-fold jump in downloads on Tuesday, rising from a daily average of around 60,000 to nearly six lakh.

"This is an affirmation of faith by citizens on this app for protecting themselves provided to them by the government," it said.

Through a directive dated November 28, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) had asked phone manufacturers to mandatorily pre-install the app on all smartphones sold in the country.

SAFETY WITHOUT COMPULSION

Mobile phone industry body ICEA says while it supported cybersecurity initiatives, such measures are most effective without mandatory obligations

- ICEA bats for adoption through clarity, practicality, and confidence-building for users and the industry
- Advocacy group Internet Freedom Foundation welcomes the revocation
- It says the revocation should be treated as cautious optimism, until formal legal direction is published and confirmed

> From the Sanchar Saathi app, snooping is neither possible nor will it ever be. The government wants to give power in the hands of the people to help them protect themselves

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA
Union Communications Minister

> The government was caught snooping red-handed, yet it pretends innocence and ignorance. The Minister of Communication has contradicted and disowned his own government's order

PAWAN KHERA
Congress spokesperson

The government had given manufacturers and importers 90 days to comply with the order.

The order was made public on Monday, hours after media reports about the directive sparked a political row. Opposition parties termed it a dictatorial move targeted to strangulate the voice of the people.

The government has claimed that the app is meant purely to protect citizens from bad actors in the cyber world.

Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia reiterated that the app cannot be used for surveillance of citizens and poses no threat to personal data.

"From the Sanchar Saathi app, snooping is neither possible nor will it ever be," Scindia said in the Lok Sabha, categorically rejecting the Opposition's allegations regarding surveillance and privacy concerns.

The minister said the objective of the government behind introduction of the app was to "empower" users, not intrude on their privacy.

"The government wants to give power in the hands of the people to help them protect themselves," he said.

Meanwhile, the Opposition continued to attack the government over the issue.

"Safety is an excuse, the target is privacy," said Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera.

He said the app would give authorities access to citizen's data. "What Pegasus was to the VIPs of this country, Sanchar Saathi is to the common man," said Khera, drawing a parallel between the Israeli spyware tool Pegasus and Sanchar Saathi.

Rupee slips below 90 against dollar for first time

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Indian rupee fell below the 90-mark against the US dollar for the first time on Wednesday, dragged by persistent equity selling by foreign portfolio investors and uncertainty around the US-India trade deal as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government rolls out the red carpet for Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The Indian rupee hit a record low of 90.29 against the dollar in the intra-day. It closed at 90.19, which is 0.4% down from the previous day.

The rupee has slipped by 5.3% against a dollar so far this year. This has made it Asia's worst performing currency so far in 2025. This has been the sharpest decline in the value of rupee since 2022.

Details on Page 13
Services PMI up, Page 13

62 flights at KIA among over 100 cancelled by IndiGo; fliers fume

Rostering rules, weather among causes, says airline

BENGALURU/HYDERABAD/ DELHI, DHNS & AGENCIES

Travellers wait at IndiGo ticketing kiosks at Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru on Wednesday. REUTERS

Sixty-two flights in Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) were among the over 100 that IndiGo cancelled as of Wednesday evening as the airline grappled with operational disruptions.

The cancellations at KIA include 31 arrivals and as many departures besides delays.

According to a KIA source, arrivals from Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Chennai, Goa, Kolkata and Lucknow were cancelled. Among the departure flights impacted were Mumbai, Delhi, Goa, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata and Ahmedabad. An IndiGo representative attributed the cancellations to operational reasons and a cascading effect of multiple delays.

▸ Flights, Page 6

CREW CURBS

One of the reasons for cancellations was rostering rules or Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL)

Latest FDTL norms

- Increased weekly rest periods to 48 hours
- Extension of night hours
- Limiting number of night landings to two as against six earlier

DGCA probing disruptions

DGCA on Wednesday said it is investigating IndiGo flight disruptions, and has asked the airline to submit the reasons for the situation as well as the plans to reduce flight cancellations and delays. Details on Page 11

K'taka Raj Bhavan is now Lok Bhavan

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Raj Bhavan has been renamed as Lok Bhavan and this change will be effected in all government communications.

Following the notification issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to change Raj Bhavan into Lok Bhavan, the secretariat of Raj Bhavan Karnataka has communicated to the state government requesting it to incorporate this in all its official communications.

Rs 70L gold stolen from JE's house

SURAPURA (YADGIR DIST), DHNS: Thieves broke into the house of Mahesh Shivanand, a junior engineer (JE) at the City Municipal Council and stole valuables including gold jewellery worth Rs 70 lakh and Rs 40,000 in cash.

The JE's family had gone to take part in the Maragamma Devi fair at Diwalgudda near the town on Tuesday night leaving the house locked. A police team has been constituted to hunt down the thieves. Page 4

SC lets woman, kid return from B'desh

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed on "humanitarian grounds" the entry of a pregnant woman and her eight-year-old child into India, months after they were pushed into Bangladesh.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi asked the West Bengal government to take care of the minor and directed the chief medical officer of Birbhum to provide medical assistance to the pregnant woman Sunali Khatun.

The bench noted the submission of the Centre that the competent authority has agreed to allow the duo into the country purely on humanitarian grounds.

Details on Page 10

12 Maoists, 3 security personnel killed in Ch'garh encounter

BIJAPUR (CHHATTISGARH), PTI: Twelve Maoists and three personnel of the District Reserve Guard (DRG), a specialised unit of the state police, were killed in a fierce encounter in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Wednesday, officials said.

Two other DRG jawans suffered injuries in the gunfight, they said, adding the operation was still underway in the district.

The gun battle broke out in a forest along the border of Bijapur-Dantewada districts when a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxal operation, Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj Pattilingam said.

Personnel belonging to the DRG from Dantewada and Bijapur, and Special Task Force, both units of the state police, and CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action- an elite unit of CRPF) were involved in the operation, he said.

So far, bodies of 12 Naxalites have been recovered from the encounter spot, but their identities were yet to be established, the senior IPS officer stated. Besides, Single Loading Rifles (SLRs), Insas rifles, .303 rifles and other arms and ammunition were recovered from the site, he said.

As many as 275 Maoists have been killed in encounters in Chhattisgarh so far this year.

HC sets aside cancellation of Bengal postings

KOLKATA, PTI: A division bench of the Calcutta High Court on Wednesday set aside a single bench order that annulled appointments of 32,000 primary school teachers in West Bengal.

These teachers were recruited in 2016 through the Teachers' Eligibility Test (TET) panel of 2014 by the West Bengal Board of Primary Education.

The division bench said it is not inclined to uphold the single bench order as irregularities have not been proven in all the recruitments.

The court maintained that the termination of employment after nine years would have a huge impact on the primary teachers and their families.

Details on Page 7

DIRECT RESOLUTION

Apartment bill mandates body to resolve conflicts

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

Amid a growing demand for changes in the existing laws concerning apartments in Bengaluru, the government has finalised the Karnataka Apartment (Ownership and Management) Bill, 2025, which is likely to be tabled in the upcoming Winter Session of the legislature beginning on December 8 in Belagavi.

The bill seeks to establish an appellate authority for conflict resolution. This is different from the earlier laws, where the conflict resolution was internal and the parties concerned needed to approach civil courts for any legal relief.

The bill, which *DH* has accessed, applies to the projects containing eight or more buildings in Karnataka. It will replace the Karnataka Ownership Act, 1972. It could be discussed in the Cabinet meeting on Thursday.

Karnataka Apartment (Ownership and Management) Bill, 2025

Applies to projects containing 8 or more buildings

- Will replace Karnataka Ownership Act, 1972
- Provides 'mechanism for the governance of apartments, operation and use of common areas'
- Mandates forming an association of allottees representing all allottees
- A competent authority comprising local authority officials will be formed

As per the 'Statements and Reasons' of the bill, it seeks to provide a "mechanism for the governance of apartments, operation and use of common areas and facilities of apartment buildings".

According to the bill, an allottee is one to whom an apartment has been allotted, sold or otherwise transferred by a promoter.

Common areas and facilities include staircases, lifts, staircase and lift lobbies, fire escapes, and common entrances and exits of buildings.

A promoter can refer to "a person who constructs or causes the construction of an independent building or a building consisting of apartments, or converts an existing building or a part thereof into apartments, for the purpose of selling all or some of the apartments to other persons and includes his assignees".

▸ Apartment bill, Page 6

Responsibilities grow with time...
So should your protection.
A pure protection plan that grows with your life's milestones.
PRESENTING
LIC's Bima Kavach
UIN: 512N360V01 | Plan No.: 887
Non-Par, Non-Linked, Life, Individual, Pure Risk Plan
Plan is also available online
• Level or Increasing Sum Assured Options
• Flexible premium payment choices - Single, Regular, or Limited (5, 10, or 15 years)
• Lifetime Risk Cover (up to 100 years)
• Option to enhance life cover at defined life stage events*
*Available only under Level Sum Assured option with Regular Premium payment, for a standard life with age less than or equal to 40 years (Last Birthday).
Download LIC Mobile App
Visit: licindia.in
Call Centre Services (022) 6827 6827
Our WhatsApp No. 8976862090 Say 'Hi'
For details, contact your Agent/Nearest LIC Branch/visit www.licindia.in
Follow us : LIC India Forever I IRDAI Regn No.: 512
LIC
भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA
Har Pal Aapke Saath
BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS. IRDAI or its officials do not involve in any activities of insurance business like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums, refund of amounts. Policyholders or the prospects receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint. For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.
LIC/R1/2025-26/24/Eng

CCB confiscates Rs 28.75-cr drugs ahead of NY bash

Foreigners arrested as police foil plans to push contraband during festivities

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) has seized Rs 28.75 crore worth of MDMA crystals and hydro ganja in separate raids across Bengaluru ahead of New Year celebrations, thwarting plans to sell narcotics at inflated rates during the festivities.

Two foreign nationals, including a Tanzanian woman, have been arrested. Police also intercepted parcels at the Foreign Post Office in Chamarajpet, seizing 8 kg of hydro ganja.

In the first case, CCB officers searched a Sampigehalli house and arrested Nancy Omary, 29, a Tanzanian national, recovering 9 kg of MDMA crystals.

Nancy, reportedly a hairstylist, arrived in India three years ago on a tourist visa. Another peddler who assisted her is absconding.

Police are working to trace the accomplice based on information provided by Nancy.

In the second case, the CCB arrested Emmanuel Arenji Idoke, 28, a Nigerian who arrived on a business visa four years ago and rented a house in Siddapura.

Police seized 1 kg of MDMA. Emmanuel allegedly sourced drugs from Delhi and supplied them to local consumers, including students and tech professionals, with plans to sell at inflated prices during New Year.

He had previously been arrested under the NDPS Act in 2024 and released in April 2025. He was apprehended again while peddling drugs near the Lalbagh South Gate.

In the third operation, the CCB Anti-Narcotics Wing intercepted parcels at the Foreign Post Office, Chamarajpet, and seized 8 kg of hydro ganja worth about Rs 8 crore.

The contraband was sourced from abroad and routed to Bengaluru.

Investigations are ongoing to identify and apprehend those behind the smuggling attempt.

Rs 142-cr drugs recovered in 11 months — highest in a decade

Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said they have seized narcotics worth Rs 142 crore in the last 11 months, the highest recovery in a decade.

He said November saw the largest haul, following coordinated raids by the CCB and city police.

He added that police citywide have been placed on high alert to curb drug peddling, with a focus on overstaying foreigners and courier agencies receiving international parcels increasingly used for smuggling.

Helmets on, phones off: Burglars caught after Rs 1.14-crore house heist

BENGALURU, DHNS

Hebbagodi police have arrested two men for a house burglary and recovered valuables worth Rs 1.16 crore, including Rs 1.14 crore in cash.

The arrested have been identified as Srinivasa Murthy, 39, of Chickpet and Arun Kumar, 40, a resident of Chikkagollarahatti.

Police said the two men targeted the residence of Suneel Kumar, who runs a vegetable trading and scrap business.

Srinivasa, a cloth merchant, was aware that Suneel often kept large amounts of cash at home. They monitored his movements and broke into the house when he had travelled out of town.

After a recce of the area, the suspects entered the house and ransacked it before fleeing with the cash. They had covered their faces with helmets and avoided using mobile phones during the burglary to evade detection, police said.

Based on technical evidence and local inquiries, police tracked them down. Police have recovered gold jewellery, other valuables and the two-wheeler used in the crime.

Building dispute: Couple arrested for abetting neighbour's suicide

BENGALURU, DHNS: A software engineer died by suicide at an under-construction building in Nallurhalli, Whitefield, on Wednesday.

He was reportedly upset over alleged harassment by a neighbour and a civic notice issued over the property.

The deceased has been identified as Murali G (49) of Brooke Bond Layout. He is survived by his wife and two children.

Murali's mother Lakshmi Govindrajulu alleged in her complaint that a neighbour, Usha Nambiar, had been pressuring him to pay Rs 20 lakh and was getting notices issued through civic officers.

Murali was reportedly distressed after Usha allegedly set a deadline for the payment on Tuesday. She had also threatened that a court notice would be served shortly.

Fearing legal consequences, he took the extreme step, Lakshmi stated in the complaint.

Whitefield police have recovered a death note.

Based on the allegations, they arrested Usha, 57, and her husband Shashi Nambiar, 64, for abetment of suicide.

Threatening tactics

The couple and their son Varun are also accused of frequently demanding money from people constructing new houses and layouts in the area. They would allegedly threaten to stop construction by obtaining court injunctions or pushing authorities to issue notices, a senior police officer said.

Plaint against Ranveer for hurting religious sentiments

BENGALURU, DHNS: A city advocate has lodged a complaint against Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh for allegedly hurting religious sentiments by mimicking 'Daiva' in front of *Kantara* actor Rishab Shetty.

The High Grounds police have acknowledged the complaint lodged by Prashanth Metal on Wednesday.

"I am filing this complaint to bring to your immediate attention the illegal and offensive actions of Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh, which have deeply hurt my religious sentiments and the sentiments of millions of Hindus," Metal said, adding. "Particularly, the Tulu-speaking community of Karnataka."

"It has come to my notice through various news reports and video footage circulated on social media in the last few days."

During the closing ceremony of IFFI 2025, actor Ranveer Singh went on stage and mimicked Rishab Shetty's performance in *Kantara*.

"On November 28, during the closing ceremony of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) held in Goa, Singh openly mocked and insulted the sacred 'Daiva' (Bhoota Kola) tradition depicted in the movie *Kantara*. Further aggravating the offence, he verbally referred to the sacred Daiva as a 'ghost' ('female ghost')," he added.

Following the outrage, Singh had apologised via a public statement on social media.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

DHiE Expressions: Inter-school competition, spell bee and word wonder; Organised by Deccan Herald in Education (DHIE); Bal Bhavan, Cubbon Park; 10 am.

Inauguration of Women Employees' Conference: Siddaramaiah, DK Shivakumar; Organised by Akhila Karnataka State Government Women Employees' Association; Banquet Hall, Vidhana Soudha; from 10 am onwards.

Akhila Bharat Arya Ediga Women's Conference: Karnataka Arya Ediga Women's Association; Nimhans Convention Centre, Hosur Road; from 10 am.

Valmiki Veda-Discourse and Felicitation: Honouring KE Devanathan, Shathavadhani R Ganesh, B Nageshappa; Saketa Pratishthanam; DVG Auditorium, Gokhale Institute of Public Affairs, Basavanagudi Road, NR Colony; from 10 am.

Workshop on 'Preservation and Digitisation of Manuscripts': HK Patil; Shalini Rajneesh, Trilok Chandra KV, Khushboo Goyal Chowdhary; Organised by Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage; Tourism Department; and Oriental Research Institute, University of Mysore; Venkatappa Art Gallery auditorium, Kasturba Road; 10 am.

Silk Mark Expo-2025: Pragati Rishabh Shetty; Silk Mark, Central Silk Board; Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumarakrupa Road; from 10.30 am.

Release of 'Dasara' school students' essay collection: Chandrahas Hiremallali; Organised by Kannada Bhasha Sangha, Government High School, Palace Guttahalli; from 11 am.

State-level athletics meet for boys and girls under 17: Inauguration Madhu Bangarappa; Organised by School Education Department; Kanteerava Stadium, Kasturba Road; from 4 pm.

Book release and documentary preview: On Rao Bahaddur, Vachana Pitamaha Dr FG Hallikatti; Inauguration by Eshwar B Khandre; Book release: Leeladevi R Prasad; Organised by Akhila Bharata Veerashaiva Lingayat Mahasabha; Hangal Kumaraswamy Auditorium, Akhila Bharata Veerashaiva Lingayat Mahasabha, Sadashivanagar; from 5 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	26.0°C
Minimum	19.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	1.0 mm
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	77%
Sunset (Dec 4)	5:52 pm
Sunrise (Dec 5)	6:27 am
Moonrise	4:13 am
Moonset	4:24 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

---

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owner **SRI.KESHAVAN K TIRUVALLUR** S/o late T.V.Krishnamachari.

Apart from the said owner, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.39/1, PID No.51-10-39/1, New EPID No.9076834065, measuring East to West 60' 6" and North to South 68' 6", situated at Police Station Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Market Road;
West by : Property of Sri.Bheemasena;
North by : Private property;
South by : Property of Sri.T.K.Raghunath.

Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND,** Advocate,
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES,
No.60, 2nd Floor, Old Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560004

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

E-Tender Notice No. E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-103-105-25, dated 02.12.2025. e-Tenders are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg)/Adra, S.E.Railway for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works : **Sl. No. & Tender No.; Description of works; Tender value : (1) E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-103-25, dated 02.12.2025;** (1) Strengthening/rehabilitation/reconstruction of 3 Nos. bridges Br. No. 104 UP+DN & 98 DN in between Kotshila-Bokaro Steel City Section. (2) Replacement of existing RCC Slabs (2 Nos.) by precast RCC Slab and construction of wing/Return wall of Br. No. 3 at Km 338/MC-17-18 in Mahuda-Jamuniatand Section. (3) Improvement of Br. No. 393, 394A, 395, 397, 415, 415A, 416, 417, 419, 421A by Jacketing & grouting, construction of Wing/Return wall flooring & stair in Adra Division; ₹ 5,04,42,432.69. **(2) E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-104-25, dated 02.12.2025;** (1)Bokaro Steel City– Augmentation of facilities in Diesel Sheds for homing of Electric Locomotives at Electric Loco Shed/Ispatnagar. (2) Advance maintenance facilities for Electric Locos at Electric Loco Shed/Ispatnagar. (3) Bokaro Steel City – Improvement of infrastructure at ROHS/Bokaro Steel City, ELINS/Bokaro Steel City & ELSS/Bokaro Steel City Store complex under Adra Division. (4) Bhojudih– Provision of Auxiliary shed at sick line/ Bhojudih to cater trolley and wheel sets in Adra Division; ₹ 15,53,81,881.82. **(3) E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-105-25, dated 02.12.2025;** TBR-84.268 Tr.km under the jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer/Central/Adra in Adra Division; ₹ 4,82,12,751.81. The **closing date and time of e-tenders** is on 29.12.2025 at 15.00 hrs. Details of above e-tenders may please be seen at website **www.ireps.gov.in** **(PR-904)**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
INSTITUTE FOR DESIGN OF ELECTRICAL MEASURING INSTRUMENTS, MUMBAI
वैद्युतिक मापन उपयंत्र अभिकल्प संस्थान, मुंबई
Government Certificate course on
Artificial Intelligence for Film Making and Content Creation
Course Duration: 5 Days
Course Timing- 7.30 pm to 9 pm
ऑनलाइन ONLINE
Course Date- 8 to 12 December 2025
Email ID: training@idemi.org Website: www. Idemi.org Ph.:[022] 2405 0301/2/3/4
☛Using and understanding AI from basics to advanced and using free tools for Concept development ☛Script or idea sketch ☛Shot planning ☛Camera framing and angles ☛Lighting setup Location selection ☛ Outfit and styling ☛Makeup and grooming ☛ Voiceover recording ☛ Background music selection ☛On-screen text and captions ☛ Transitions and cuts ☛ Color filters and grading ☛Slow motion or time-lapse ☛ Green screen use ☛Face tracking and AR filters | Sound effects ☛ Lip-sync accuracy ☛ Trend adaptation ☛ Hook in the first 3 seconds ☛ Call-to-action (CTA) placement ☛ Loop design (seamless repeat) ☛ Hashtag strategy ☛ Thumbnail and cover design ☛ Storytelling in under 30 seconds ☛ B-roll and overlay usage ☛ Multicam or angle variation ☛ Engagement prompts (like polls/questions) ☛ Upload timing strategy ☛ Performance tracking and analytics
With hands on practical
Course Fees- 3000+18 % GST (Fees are not refundable)
For Whom: Filmmaker, Director, Content Creator, Cinematographer, Editor, Scriptwriter, Actor, Influencer, Vlogger, Social Media Manager, students and interested candidates.
After Successful Completion Certificate Will be Issued
Scan QR Code for Registration & Fees Payment
हमें कॉल करें / Call us between 10 am to 6 pm
Contact-8007765693,9403566219,9869087617

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of Tender Notice
B-SG-Proj-Optg_Req_YNK Dtd:26.11.2025.
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Sl.No.	Item of Work	Approx.Value
1.	SWR- Bengaluru Division of operating constraints at Yelahanka Station.	Rs. 1,81,78,547.17/-

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 15.00 hrs on 18.12.2025
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Project/Bengaluru
PUB/700/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the **UTS** Moblie App from **Google Play Store** for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR @SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

---

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client has negotiated to purchase below mentioned Item 1 and 2 Schedule Properties for valuable consideration from its owner MRS. BHIMAVARAPU NAGARAJA KUMARI, aged about 64 years, Wife of Mr. Basivi Reddy, Daughter of Mr. Avuthu Kulanda Reddy, residing at H.No. 14-28-8, Uppulurivari Street, Morrispeta Tenali, Guntur District-522 202, Andhra Pradesh.

Any person/s, Banks/Financial institutions or any other authority concerned having or claiming any manner of right, title, lien or interest or objection in, to or upon the Schedule Property and its sale may intimate the same in writing supported by documentary evidence to the undersigned within **TWENTY ONE DAYS** from the date of publication hereof, failing which all rights or claims, if any, shall be deemed to have been waived and that my clients will proceed with the purchase of the Schedule Property as if no valid claims are subsisting against Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No.1 :
All that piece and parcel of the Dry land Bearing New Survey No 201/5 (earlier part of Survey No. 201/1, measuring to an extent of 26 guntas, situated at Dandupalya Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District bounded on the
East by : Private Property bearing Survey No.198,
West by : Road,
North by : Survey No.201/1 belonged to Mrs. Bhimavarapu Nagaraja Kumari,
South by : A. K. Colony.

Item No.2 :
All that piece and parcel of the Dry land Bearing Survey No. 201/1, measuring to an extent of 2 Acres 04 Guntas, situated at Dandupalya Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District bounded on the East by : Private Property bearing Survey No.198,
West by : Road,
North by : Road,
South by : Property belonged to Mrs. Bhimavarapu Nagaraja Kumari.

The aforesaid two properties are converted from Agricultural Purpose to Residential purpose. vide conversion order No. ALN (HK) SR.19/2016-17 dated 1/9/2016, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Rural District, Bengaluru.

The boundaries of the aforesaid two properties after conversion is recorded in the above conversion order as hereunder : Survey No. 201/1 measuring 2 acres 04 guntas in extent and Survey No.201/5 measuring 26 guntas in extent is BOUNDED ON THE :
East by : Land in Survey No.198, West by : Road
North by : Road South by : Land in Survey No.201/2

Bengaluru, Dated: 04th December, 2025

B. M. RAJENDER, B.Com, LL.B, Advocate,
No. 906, "Kamala Nivas", 9th "A" Main, 2nd "D" Cross HRBR Layout I Block, Kalyannagar Bengaluru - 560 043.
Mob : 98805 28287 / 91082 84297

झारखण्ड सरकार
क्षेत्र सर्वेक्षण प्रमण्डल, अग्रिम योजना, पथ निर्माण विभाग, दुमका

अल्पकालीन ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना, (1st Call)

ई-निविदा प्रसंग संo:-RCD/FSD/AP/DUM/10/2025-26 दिनांकः-

1.	कार्य का नाम	Consultancy services for exploration of Feasibility report cum preparation of Detailed project report for construction of Elevated Road/Flyover from Khijuriya More to Nehru Park/Shivganga including its approaches,replacement of culverts and bridges if any, proposal for new culverts and bridges if any , complete Land Acquisition Proposal including ownership details all complete as per latest guidelines, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Proposal Forest Diversion etc as required, at Deogharin the state of Jharkhand. Tentative Length -2.5Km
2.	अनुमानित लंबाई	2. 5कि०मी०
3.	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	75दिन
4.	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशित होने की तिथि एवं समय	08.12.2025, 05.00 बजेअपराह्न
5.	निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	22.12.2025, 12.00 बजेअपराह्नतक
6.	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	23.12.2025, 01.00 बजेअपराह्न
7.	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले का नाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियंताका कार्यालय, क्षेत्र सर्वेक्षण प्रमण्डल अग्रिम योजना,पथ निर्माणविभाग,दुमका।
8.	प्रोक्योरमेंट पदाधिकारी का संपर्क नं0	8292901787
9.	ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल को हेल्पलाईन नं0	0651-2401010

अतिरिक्त जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईटपर देखें :-http://jharkhandtenders. gov.in

कार्यपालक अभियंता, क्षेत्र सर्वेक्षण प्रमण्डल, अग्रिम योजना, पथ निर्माण विभाग, दुमका

PR 367594 Road(25-26)#D

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE,
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO)
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC), Plot No.12 & 13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 058. Fax:080-28094180 Ph:080-28094196, 4184, 4541, 4542

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

1. On behalf of President of India, **item rate E-Tenders** are invited from Contractors of appropriate class for the following works

Sl. No.	NIT No.	ISTRAC/CMG/MAINT/C/ETN-93/2025-26 Dated: 03.12.2025	ISTRAC/CMG/MAINT/C/ETN-94/2025-26 Dated:03.12.2025
1	Name of Work	**Widening of open area behind N18 Building for making playground at IDSN Campus, ISTRAC, Bengaluru (Civil Works)**	**Horizontal extension to stores section and renovation of existing stores section at SCC Campus, ISTRAC, Bengaluru (Civil works)**
2	Estimated cost put to tender	**Rs. 10.00 Lakhs**	**Rs. 15.50 Lakhs**
3	Tender Document details	**E-Tender**	**E-Tender**
4	Period of completion	**02 (Two) Months**	**05 (Five) Months**
5	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 14.30 hrs on 04.12.2025 to 16.30 hrs. on 13.12.2025**	**From 14.30 hrs on 05.12.2025 to 16.30 hrs. on 19.12.2025**
6	Bid clarification	**From 15.30 hrs on 04.12.2025 to 16.30 hrs. on 14.12.2025**	**From 15.30 hrs on 05.12.2025 to 16.30 hrs. on 22.12.2025**
7	Last date and time of reply to Bid clarification	**Up to 16.30 hrs on 15.12.2025**	**Up to 16.30 hrs on 23.12.2025**
8	Last date & time of receipt of tenders	**Up to 14.30 hrs on 16.12.2025**	**Up to 14.30 hrs on 24.12.2025**
9	Due date and time of opening of tenders	**11.30 hrs onwards 17.12.2025**	**11.30 hrs onwards 26.12.2025**
10	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 20,000/-**	**Rs. 31,000/-**

2. For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detaild bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website:**www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/isro.**

Sd/- Group Head, CMG

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. BE-29-2025-26-0T-18 (through E-Tendering)
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Name of work	Approx.Value
1) Provision of electrical supply for installation of HABD in Bengaluru division. 2) Proposed Road-1A on Rd 01 side at NDV in Yesvantpur-Sampige Road Section. 3) KSR Bengaluru-Replacing Low height shelter of PF 7 & 8, Provision of shelter in open area between second entry building and platformn entrance including granite flooring. 4) Modernization of Infrastructure at Dharmapuri Good Shed-Electrical arrangements Period of Completion 9 Months	Rs. 1,62,85,636/-

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 15 :00 hrs on 23.12.2025
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Electrical Engineer/General/ Bengaluru
PUB/691/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the **UTS** Moblie App from **Google Play Store** for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR @SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

---

झारखण्ड राज्य बिवरेजेज कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड, राँची
(झारखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम)
कॉर्पोरेट पहचान संo –U51228JH2010SGC014519, TIN No - 20520108277
उत्पाद भवन, भूतल, नवीन पुलिस केंद्र के समीप, काँके रोड़, राँची – 834008
E-mail :- jsbcl.jharkhand@gmail.com

पत्रांक–JSBCL/ स्था0–05/2012–2458 दिनांक–03.12.2025

–शुद्धि पत्र–

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय द्वारा प्रकाशित E-Tender for Empanelment of Security Guard & MTS हेतु ई-आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या–JSBCL/Esst.-05/2012-06, दिनांक–14.11.2025, जिसका– Advt. P.R. No.- 366091, दिनांक–14.11.2025 के आलोक मे दिनांक–21.11.2025 के अपराह्न 04:00 बजे को विभिन्न एजेन्सियों द्वारा E-Tender for Empanelment of Security Guard & MTS के Pre-bid बैठक में उठाये गये आपत्ति/सुझाव पर निविदा समिति द्वारा आहूत बैठक में समीक्षोपरान्त निम्नांकित बिन्दुओं पर संशोधन हेतु सहमति प्रदान की गयी :–

Sl. No.	Particulars	Suggestions
Cover-II (c)	Envelop Part-II JSBCL/SG/Part-II Financial Bid.	वित्तीय बिड केवल ऑन–लाईन माध्यम से जमा किया जायेगा।
6 (c)	A copy of the latest Three Years filed income tax return may be provided.	श्री फिरोज अहमद, सहायक आयुक्त, वाणिज्य–कर विभाग, राँची द्वारा बताया गया कि वित्तीय वर्ष 2024–25 के लिए वार्षिक रिटर्न फाईलिंग की तिथि दिसंबर 2025 निर्धारित है। अतः जिस कंडिका में Relevant Three (03) Financial Years का उल्लेख है वहाँ वित्तीय वर्ष 2021–22, 2022–23 एवं 2023–24 तथा कर निर्धारण वर्ष 2022–23, 2023–24 एवं 2024–25 समझा जाय।
6 (e)	Please indicate the degree of computerization in the organization.	विलोपित किया जाता है।
7.2	Cover- II (Financial Bid)	श्री एतवारी महतो, अधीक्षक श्रम, श्रम विभाग, राँची के द्वारा बताया गया कि– कर्मियों के पारिश्रमिक भुगतान के संदर्भ में श्रम कानून का अनुपालन किया जाना अनिवार्य है। अतः वित्तीय निविदा में केवल सर्विस चार्ज (BOQ के अनुसार) Quote किया जाय एवं कर्मियों के पारिश्रमिक भुगतान के संबंध में सभी श्रम कानूनों का अनुपालन किया जाय।

निविदा समिति के द्वारा सुदृढ़ प्रतिभागीता के दृष्टिकोण से निविदा समर्पित करने की तिथि–09.12.2025 के अपराह्न 05:00 बजे को दिनांक–17.12.2025 के अपराह्न 05:00 बजे एवं तकनीकि निविदा के खोलने की तिथि–18.12.2025 के अपराह्न 04:00 बजे तक विस्तारित किया जाता है।

ह0/–
महाप्रबंधक (संचालन)
झा0रा0बि0कॉ0लि0, राँची

PR 367644 (Excise)25-26*D

POLICE TELECOM HEADQUARTERS, MADHYA PRADESH
Bhadbhada Road, Bhopal- 462003
Fax No. 0755-2443674, E-mail: ssp_radio@mppolice.gov.in

NIT No.: PTHQ/PUR/CCTV/38/PASS/D-19932/2025, **Date: 01/12/2025**

-: Notice Inviting e-Tender:- (3rd Call)

e-Tenders are invited by the Senior Superintendent of Police (Radio) MP Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following items: -

Sr. No	Name of item	Required EMD Rs.	Tender Fee Rs.
1	**Supply, Installation, Integration, Commissioning and Maintenance of PASS (POLICE AERIAL SUPPORT SYSTEM)**	**Rs. 5 Lakhs**	**10,000/-**

1. Cost of tender documents is **Rs.10,000/- (Tender fee) (Rupees Ten Thousand only)** which is non-refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition. Must be paid online at the time of filling e tender.
2. Tender documents can also be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in).
3. The Tender Should be submitted online on website https://www.mptenders.gov.in and within scheduled date and time.
4. This is a turn-key Project.
5. **Schedule Date & Time:**

S.No.	Activity of tender	Date	Day	Time
1.	Documents Publish/download/Sale Start Date	01/12/2025	Monday	1800 Hrs
2.	Bid Submission Start Date	02/12/2025	Tuesday	1830Hrs
3.	Bid Submission End Date	15/12/2025	Monday	1700 Hrs
4.	Opening of PQ Bid	16/12/2025	Tuesday	1710 Hrs

Sd/- Senior Superintendent of Police (Radio) Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal

G-22227/25

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving

Thank you Jesus for all the Blessings received.
- R. Chelladurai and Family

THANKSGIVING

Book your Thanksgiving Advertisement in **Deccan Herald**

@2000/-
(Size 4cmx5cm)

For more Details Contact:
Ph: 080- 45557163/ 164
9845114560 | 9731810277

‘British’ citizen dupes Bengaluru bizman of Rs 2.95 cr; booked

Victim lured into investing in fake software development delivery centre in the city

PRAJWAL D’SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

A British national of Indian origin allegedly cheated a Bengaluru businessman of Rs 2.95 crore by luring him into investing in a bogus software development delivery centre in the city.

The 49-year-old victim from Maruthi Nagar, whose identity has been withheld, told *DH* that Manoj Veetil, the suspect, claimed ties to a prominent university and posed as a “high scholar” and “successful businessman”.

The victim said he first met Veetil in 2019 through Clara from Canada. Both had explored launching a flying school in Bengaluru, but the project failed for want of investment.

In 2023, Veetil reconnected over WhatsApp.

“He claimed to be a Consultant Enterprise Architect for Ahold PLC and Turkish Airlines, managing two software projects worth USD 3 million each. He shared technical documents and sought help to

raise Indian capital, proposing a software development centre in Bengaluru with about 200 employees,” the victim said.

Veetil shared a copy of his British passport and proposed starting a UK company with the victim and his friend as directors. The victim later discovered Veetil had removed them by forging signatures.

Between October 2024 and January 2025, the victim transferred Rs 2.95 crore to Veetil’s Bank of Scotland and TSB Bank accounts, purportedly for payroll.

Veetil later claimed he would bring a technical team to India in March to begin project deployment. On March 4, his phone was switched off and the victim lost contact.

“He sent several technical documents and posed as a high scholar and successful businessman with influential contacts, leading me to trust him. He also explained the project in video calls,” the victim told *DH*.

On March 11, complaints were filed with the Metropolitan Police and Action Fraud in the UK. The victim also lodged a complaint in Bengaluru on November 27. The Northeast Cybercrime Police have registered an FIR and begun investigation.

PETALS & PRIDE

Visitors at the Rajyotsava flower show at Cubbon Park. The event will be on till Sunday. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

Two agencies to draft Bengaluru’s new master plan after a decade

GBA, BDA plans spark concerns over fragmented city planning

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

After more than a decade, Bengaluru may finally get a new master plan — a key document to guide the city’s development — but the exercise will be split between two agencies.

The work will be shared by the newly formed Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and its sister-concern Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), each preparing plans only for their jurisdiction.

Experts say the fragmented approach counters the core principle of city planning, which they argue should rest with a single institution to manage land use, mobility, and infrastructure growth.

Urban researchers also warn that parallel planning processes could lead to overlapping proposals, delays in implementation and confusion among project executing agencies, especially when road widening, public transport expansion and zoning changes require coordinated decisions across multiple administrative boundaries.

The GBA has received approval to prepare a Comprehensive Master Plan for its 709 sqkm area. This marks the agency’s first major planning exercise, as the former Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) did not hold planning powers.

With the GBA taking charge, the BDA’s role is now limited to 427 sqkm in a doughnut-shaped ring on the city’s outskirts. The authority has been asked to prepare a fresh master plan after its recent bid to hire consultants drew no response.

Third planner?

What’s more, the GBA and the BDA are not just the two planning bodies of Bengaluru.

About 87 sqkm along both sides of NICE Road between Tumakuru Road and Hosur Road is overseen by the Bengaluru Mysuru Infrastructure Corridor Area Planning Authority (BMICAPA). This means the city is governed by three agencies using separate master plans.

A city planner told DH that a fast-growing city should have a single planning institution. “If the responsibility of putting salt, pepper and spice is given to different people, no one will be able to eat the meal,” he said.

A city planner told *DH* that a fast-growing city should have a single planning institution. “If the responsibility of putting salt, pepper and spice is given to different people, no one will be able to eat the meal,” he said.

Tushar Girinath, Additional Chief Secretary of the Urban Development Department (UDD), said responsibilities were assigned based on jurisdiction. “The GBA is the planning authority for Bengaluru,” he said, adding that plans from other agencies, including the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA), will be integrated when ready.

GBA to integrate e-khata with drone overview of property

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has begun integrating drone imagery into e-khata documents, adding a new layer of security and accuracy to digital property records.

The final e-khata will now comprise nine documents.

Munish Moudgil, Special Commissioner (Revenue), said the GBA has integrated Urban Property Ownership Records (UPOR) — property maps with drone images — into about one lakh e-khata documents so far.

“This is painstaking work. We use precise GPS data to match each e-khata with the correct UPOR map and image.

“About nine lakh final e-khatas have been issued, and drone integration is ongoing daily,” he said.

The final e-khata also includes property details, owner’s photo, digital map, Bescom metre number and more.

Round robin system

Amid strong employee objections, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has suspended the recently introduced faceless round robin system, which aimed to speed up clearance of pending e-khata applications.

The system, hailed as a major reform, auto-assigned pending files to officers without backlogs, removing exclusive jurisdictional control.

As officers lost control over files in their jurisdiction, employees threatened indefinite protest, warning of lost accountability.

As a result, the GBA has paused the system.

Now, Namma Metro taps BEML for more trains for Yellow Line

BENGALURU, DHNS

BEML will supply six driverless trainsets for Namma Metro’s Yellow Line under a Rs 414-crore variation order.

The base order — issued in August 2023 and valued at Rs 3,177 crore — was the largest in Namma Metro’s history. That required BEML to supply 53 trains — 37 for the Blue Line and 16 for the Pink Line.

In March, BMRCL issued the variation order to supply seven more Pink Line trains for Rs 405 crore.

The second variation order is the costliest. The BMRCL will pay Rs 11.5 crore per coach, compared with Rs 9.99 crore in the base order and Rs 9.64 crore in the first variation order.

In total, BEML will now supply 66 trains (396 coaches) for Namma Metro.

Designed and developed in Bengaluru, the trains will be made from high-tensile Austenitic stainless steel and feature roof-mounted saloon air-conditioners, IP-based passenger announcement and information systems, a Passenger Saloon Surveillance System for onboard security, LCD-based dynamic route maps and electrically operated automatic doors synchronised with platform screen doors, BEML said.

The sixth Yellow Line train at the Hebbagodi depot.

In December 2019, the BMRCL had awarded a Rs 1,578-crore contract to China’s CRRC Nanjing Puzhen Co Ltd to supply 36 trainsets — 15 for the Yellow Line and 21 for the Purple and Green lines — in 173 weeks. But the firm struggled to make trains in India and later partnered with Bengal’s Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL).

While Pink and Blue Line trains will interface with Alstom’s signalling system, Yellow Line trains will run on Siemens signalling.

CRRC-TRSL has delivered only six Yellow Line trains. Given the Yellow Lines’ high ridership, BMRCL turned to BEML for more trains.

BEML is expected to supplying Yellow Line trains after fulfilling the orders for Pink and Blue lines — a process that could start only in 2027.

BEML has also struggled to supply trains. The Pink Line prototype, due in June, was pushed to December due to unavailability of major equipment and delay in type tests.

Transport dept launches new smart cards for DLs, RCs

BENGALURU, DHNS: Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy launched new smart cards on Wednesday.

The smart cards will be provided for driving licences and registration certificates. Each will be valid for a period of five years.

Ramalinga Reddy

The cards will be made of polycarbonate material, printed through laser engraving, and will come with a 64 KB microchip. The QR code of the NIC software will also be printed.

The smart cards will be printed by the service provider Rosmerta Technologies Ltd under the centralised printing facility system established in the transport commissioner’s office.

Two printing machines have been imported from the Italian company Matica Fintech SPA, which are capable of printing 500-600 smart cards every hour.

The initiative is set to take off later this month.

Encroachments cleared from Gandhi Bazaar footpaths

BENGALURU, DHNS: Corporation officials on Wednesday carried out an encroachment clearance drive on the footpaths in the Gandhi Bazaar area of the Chickpet division.

Commissioner Rajendra Cholan said the corporation has created around 120 vending spots and vendors have been instructed to conduct business only within the designated areas. “However, several vendors were found occupying additional space beyond the allotted area, causing significant inconvenience to pedestrians.”

‘Is building a metro pillar rocket science?’ Minister raps BMRCL for delays in airport line

BENGALURU, DHNS

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Wednesday slammed the BMRCL authorities for the sluggish pace of work on the airport line.

“Is building a metro pillar rocket science? Do you need two to three years to finish just one pillar? If you can’t complete the work, at least free the road for traffic,” he said, as senior BMRCL officials listened.

Gowda represents the Byatarayanapura assembly constituency, which includes parts of the 38.44-km KR Pura-Airport stretch on the Blue Line.

He inspected the stretch between Nagawara and Allalasandra, near Yelahanka.

Officials have dumped unnecessary materials used for metro work at the site without proper disposal, he stated.

He made it clear that delays in metro construction were causing problems for the public and sought to know why the work cannot be completed quickly.

Gowda questioned officials for not making any arrangements for water drainage during rains. He also pointed out the quality of roads is deteriorating because of the metro construction and said people were frustrated with round-the-clock traffic jams.

“Day or night, traffic here is always clogged,” he pointed to the Outer Ring Road (ORR) in Nagawara. He instructed the BMRCL to finish the work quickly and, until then, at least ensure basic arrangements for smooth traffic flow.

BMRCL Managing Director J Ravishankar and other senior officials were present during the inspection.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda during an inspection of the metro’s Phase 2B work on Wednesday. DH PHOTO

Construction on the KR Pura-KIA metro corridor was held up for nine months in 2023 due to a fatal accident in HBR Layout.

While construction has picked up, the BMRCL cannot make up for lost time as it’s facing a shortage of construction workers, according to a senior official.

The official explained the challenges in construction, stating that work had been held up near Kasturi Nagar and Banaswadi due to delays in traffic police permission.

As of September, civil work on the Hebbal-airport stretch (27.44 km) was 57% complete, while the KR Pura-Hebbal section was only 40% complete, according to the BMRCL.

On the Benniganahalli-Kempapura section, pier work is 73% complete, caps, beams and tiebeams 60%, and girders 33%. For the Kempapura-Yelahanka stretch, the respective figures are 89%, 74% and 61%, according to BLR Metro Tracker.

The BMRCL plans to open the Blue Line in three phases. The Silk Board-KR Pura (19.75km) section will open by September 2026, Hebbal-airport (27.44 km) in June 2027, and KR Pura-Hebbal in December 2027.

4 Bengaluru highways get 149 EV charging stations

BENGALURU, DHNS: A total of 149 electric vehicle charging stations have been installed along four major highways and expressways linking Bengaluru to other cities.

Responding to a question by Bangalore Central MP PC Mohan, Minister of State for Heavy Industries Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma told the Lok Sabha that the Bengaluru–Chennai Expressway had 26 charging stations installed and four commissioned.

The Bengaluru–Pune Highway (NH 48) has the most stations, with 60 installed and 49 commissioned.

The Bengaluru–Hyderabad Highway (NH 44) has 41 installed and 23 commissioned, while the Bengaluru–Mysuru Highway (NH 275) has 22 installed and 11 commissioned. Across the four highways and expressways, there are 236 charging stations in all, with 149 installed and 87 commissioned.

The minister noted that no comprehensive assessment of EV readiness has been conducted by the union government so far.

However, the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser and its partners have conducted an EV readiness assessment of dedicated corridors to support zero emission truck deployment on Indian highways.

The findings were shared in a report on ‘India’s priority Corridors for Zero Emission Trucking’, on May 9. Ten priority corridors were identified for early electric truck deployment, including the Bengaluru–Chennai corridor.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Please contact for subscription/ service queries
(late receipt, non receipt or irregular supply of newspaper)
: 9008366666
: support@deccanherald.co.in

ORCHIDS® The International School
Presents
ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ
QUIZ CHAMPIONSHIP
2025

Bengaluru Zonal Round,
it’s time to showcase your brilliance!

Prove your knowledge at the Prajavani Quiz Championship, compete with top players and win exciting rewards.

Calling all students from 7th to 10th grade!

Winners get invited to the Discovery Workshop and also receive mentor guidance and exposure to new opportunities.

Date	Day	Venue
15th Dec, at 9 am	Monday	RV Auditorium (RV Teachers College), Rashtriya Vidyalaya Rd, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, Baby Dolne, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560011

BEAT THE BEST AND BOOK YOUR GRAND FINALE SPOT.

REGISTER NOW
FREE ENTRY!!!

Scan the QR code to register or visit www.Prajavani.net
Contact: 73380 18541 (from 12 pm to 5 pm, Mon-Fri)

Banking Partner: SBI The banker to every Indian
Refreshment Partner: Mogu Mogu
Special Partner: BHIMA
Nutrition Partner: Nandini
Associate Sponsors: ಪೂರ್ವಿಕಾ, VIPS 25 Years In Service of Humanity, talent sprint Part of Accenture, ICS Mahesh PU College
Associate Sponsors: Brain Siddaganga Group of Institutions, Margadarsi Chits (Karnataka) Private Limited
TV partner: Asianet Suvarna News
Knowledge partner: Quriosity Knowledge Solutions

DH
DECCAN HERALD
Obituaries & Remembrance Advertisements
Log on to : https://homages.deccanherald.com
or
Scan QR code to access booking form

SAD DEMISE

Koshy Mathew (Sunny)

H/o Tina Koshy & F/o Namita Liz Koshy,
departed to his heavenly abode on 2nd December 2025.
The funeral service shall take place on 5th December 2025
at 10 AM at Bangalore East Marthoma Church,
followed by the burial at the Indian Christian Cemetery,
Hosur Road, Gate #1A

KSRTC gives Rs 1 cr each to kin of staff dead in off-duty accidents

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) on Wednesday provided a compensation of Rs 1 crore each to the families of three employees who died due to an accident and electrocution.

This was provided under the 'Saarige Suraksha Accident Insurance Scheme' under which an accident insurance compensation of Rs 1 crore is provided in the event of an employee's death due to an accident, whether on duty or off duty.

All three employees lost their lives due to off-duty accidents.

Additionally, the corporation also provided a compensation of Rs 3.10 crore to the dependents of 33 employees who died due to causes other than accidents, such as heart attack, cancer, stroke and other medical reasons.

The dependents of 31 employees received Rs 10 lakh each, and two families received Rs 14 lakh each.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy and others present a compensation cheque to the family member of a deceased KSRTC employee on Wednesday.

Soft launch of e-Vaneejya

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy launched a Commercial Management Software for the KSRTC on Wednesday.

Called 'e-Vaneejya', the software will help digitise the currently manual process of generating licence fee, GST amount, late payment penalties and other charges across 1,847 commercial establishments under the corporation.

The corporation's Vice Chairman Mohammed Rizwan Nawab and Managing Director Akram Pasha were also present at the event.

Focus on start-ups at Ramaiah Evolute Awards 2025

(Left to right) Samartha Raghava Nagabhushanam, Dr M R Seetharam, chief guest Krishnakumar Natarajan (seated), guest of honour Giandomenico Milano, M R Sampangi Ramaiah and M R Kodandaram.

Start-ups should prioritise solving real-world problems before focusing on profits, said Krishnakumar Natarajan, Managing Partner, Mela Ventures, at the Ramaiah Evolute Start-up Awards 2025 held at Ramaiah Institute of Technology.

"It is a mistake to assume that innovation must generate money instantly. First, address real problems. If you succeed, customers will naturally turn to your company."

Italy's Consul in Bengaluru, Giandomenico Milano, highlighted the city's growing global reputation as a thriving start-up ecosystem. "Bengaluru is the home of start-ups. The market is vast, and you must safeguard your position," he said.

Citing Zepto's rapid rise, Milano urged the founders to study what sets successful companies apart in a crowded digital marketplace. "Create locally, then expand nationally, and later globally", he advised.

DH RIT

Ramaiah Evolute's co-founder Dr Samarth Nagabhushan shared the programme's progress since its inception in 2021. "We have provided substantial financial support to projects that contribute to India's development. This year, we received 500 applications and selected 22 companies. We are offering grants worth approximately Rs 2 crores", he said.

Gokula Education Foundation's vice chairman M R Janakiram and secretary M R Anandaram; Ramaiah Institute of Technology's directors M R Sampangi Ramaiah and M R Kodandaram, principal Dr N V R Naidu, executive director Dr H V Parswanath and academic advisor Dr Karisiddappa; and Ramaiah Evolute's CEO Dr M T Aravind and Chief Strategist & Mentor Samartha Raghava Nagabhushanam attended the event.

"We started Evolute to give a big boost to start-ups. Today, with the growth in technology, I wish the companies use their ideas and grow big", said Dr M R Seetharam, Chairman, Gokula Education Foundation.

Curated by DH Brandspot

DH Classifieds
More value, more impact
email: classifieds@deccanherald.co.in
For your Classified Advertisements, Contact:
080 - 45557160 /161/ 162/ 163/ 164/
98451 14560 / 97318 10277/ 9886213331

PERSONAL

Announcements

I,DHEERAJ NAHAR
S/o Shobhag Chand Nahar Residing`at No.183/a, 12th`Main, 3rd`Stage, 1st`Block, Manjunath Nagar, Bangalore-560010 hereby`declare that`my`Name is in Aadhar card DHEERAJ NAHAR &`in`Passport DHEERAJ NAHAR SAUBHAG CHAND NAHAR I state`that's both Names is`for`me Same`person`only vide`Affidavit Dtd:03.12.2025 Sworn`Before Notary H.R.Karunakara, Bangalore

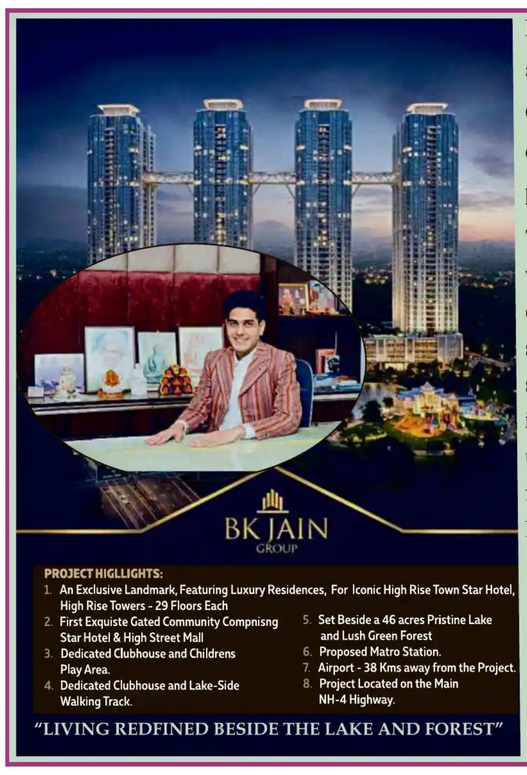
Lost

DOCUMENT LOST
I, **Leela Rao** R/at No. 74, 2nd Main Road, Anjaneya layout, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560085, have lost the **Original House Documents, Document / Identification No.: Site No.74, Sale Deed, Katha, Katha Extract, Tax Paid Reciept, Mother Deed,** while in transit. If found please **Contact No: 9663284269.**

The original registered sale deed of the below schedule property registered as document No.BNG(U)-BLR(S)/1599 /2003-2004 at the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk, is lost irretrievably. If found or if any one has any claims/objections can write to - Jayaram Krishnan, No.114, 13th Main Road, HSR Sector 5, Bangalore - 560102, Mobile # 9740069637 within 15 days of this notice.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY
(Description of property)
All that piece and parcel of immovable property being three bedroom residential Apartment bearing No.104, measuring 1527 square feet in the First floor of the building "Jyothi Meadows" built on consolidated Khatha No.28/3, situated at Kodihalli, Varthur Hobli, within Ward No.73 of Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Anandpura Main Road, L.B.Shivalingiah Colony, Nanja Reddy Colony, Bangalore, with one car parking space and 432.78 (1/38 th) square feet of undivided share in the land where the apartment is constructed and bounded on the
East by -
BDA Main Road
West by -
Private Property
North by -
Private Property and Road
South by -
Private Property

CONNECT Classifieds


BK JAIN
GROUP
PROJECT HIGLLIGHTS:
1. An Exclusive Landmark, Featuring Luxury Residences, For Iconic High Rise Town Star Hotel, High Rise Towers - 29 Floors Each
2. First Exquisite Gated Community Compnisng Star Hotel & High Street Mall
3. Dedicated Clubhouse and Childrens Play Area.
4. Dedicated Clubhouse and Lake-Side Walking Track.
5. Set Beside a 46 acres Pristine Lake and Lush Green Forest
6. Proposed Matro Station.
7. Airport - 38 Kms away from the Project.
8. Project Located on the Main NH-4 Highway.
"LIVING REDFINED BESIDE THE LAKE AND FOREST"

B K Jain Group, Bengaluru, has announced a funding infusion of ₹250 crore to drive the development of its upcoming mixed-use commercial and residential real estate project in the city.

The investment will accelerate the Group's vision of creating a modern, sustainable designed green urban destination that seamlessly integrates premium residential spaces with high-value commercial infrastructure. The project is poised to unlock substantial growth opportunities for the region and contribute to Bengaluru's evolving urban landscape.

"This milestone reflects the trust and confidence our investors have in our growth journey and future roadmap, in the Group's long-term vision." Mr Kalp Kumar Jain, Director - BK Jain Group, said in a statement.

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SESHADRI** residing at # 33/1, Singapura Main Road, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bengaluru-560097, have changed my name to **SHESHADRI** vide affidavit dated 03/12/2025, before notary S.I.Balaguru, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Haritha Reddy Thatiparti,** residing at Flat No. 329, 3rd Floor, SLS Silicon Valey, Belathur, Kadugodi Post, Bengaluru-560067, have changed my name to **HARITHA KOLLI REDDY** vide affidavit dated 02.12.2025 before notary Manjunath T, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **HARITHA KOLLI REDDY** only

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SPOORTHY P.D. D/o DINESH P.R., aged about 30 years, resident of davangere. That my all recorded name in school, collage, investments, marriage certificate, bank a/c, in all transactions upto 26.04.2024 is SPOORTHY P.D. But I myself desire choose and select SPOORTHY D. D/O Dinesh PR as my new name from this date 27.04.2024 and I make an affidavit in front of notary public in future all my transactions in my new name only hence forth I shall be known with my new name for all old and new transactions, investments and all documents.
Ph: 94481-80019

I, LEKHA Chanda Pillai Reasiding at Astro Maison Douce, Flat No. MB-3-013, Radha Reddy layout Road, Doddakanahalli, off Sarjapur road, post Karmaleram, Bangalore 560035 Have changed my Name to LEKHA SAJU vide affidavit Dated 02/12/2025 before Notory Ganesh Gowda.M.V, Bangalore-29.

Heartiest Congratulations to Dr. Ayesha Zubair, Ph.D.

Dr. Ayesha Zubair, daughter of Syed Zubair has been awarded a Ph.D. degree by CMR University, Bengaluru.

Her research thesis titled **"A Study on Analysis of Anomalies in the Indian Stock Market"** was completed under the guidance of Dr. Bhupendra Bahadur Tiwari, Professor & Director, School of Economics and Commerce, **CMR University.**

Dr. Ayesha Zubair is currently serving as an **Assistant Professor** in the Postgraduate Department of Commerce, Mount Carmel College, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Manjunath N and N Manju,** residing at No. 409, Holenarasipura Taluk, Halli Mysore, Hassan, Karnataka - 573210, declare that the above names pertain to me only & henceforth I shall be known as **MANJUNATH N** Aadhar No. xxxx xxxx 6348 vide affidavit dated 22-11-2025 before notary Chikkanna, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Gowravva Marekeshwar,** residing at No.66, Shobha Estate, Nadanahalli, Alanahalli Post, Mysore Dist, Karnataka - 570028, have changed my name to **G F MADAKESHWAR** vide affidavit dated 03.12.2025 before notary L Gopalakrishna, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **G F MADAKESHWAR** only

I, MANI, R/at No.10, 9th Cross, Kanshiramnagar Vidyarnyapura Post Bangalore- 560097 have changed my name to MANI RANGANATH vide affidavit dated: 3/12/2025 Before Notary Onkarappa.N.R Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **AKSHAYA L. IYER @ AKSHAYA LALITHA IYER UPPATI,** D/o.V.V.Pathy, permanent Resident of No.203, Classic Aloha Rahat Bagh Enclave, C.V. Raman Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 093, having Aadhar No.7577 1890 4974, and presently resident of United States of America, do hereby declare that, both the above names pertain to me only and henceforth I shall be known as **AKSHAYA LALITHA IYER UPPATI,** vide Affidavit dated 27.11.2025 sworn to before Notary **L. GOPALKRISHNA,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Gowravva Marekeshwar,** residing at No.66, Shobha Estate, Nadanahalli, Alanahalli Post, Mysore Dist, Karnataka - 570028, have changed my name to **G F MADAKESHWAR** vide affidavit dated 03.12.2025 before notary L Gopalakrishna, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **G F MADAKESHWAR** only

BUSINESS

Business Offers

Business For Sale

BUILDERS ESSENTIAL

Water Proofing

LEAKAGE... LEAKAGE... Old/New Building, Sump, Bathroom, Wallcrack, Skylight, Terrace Waterproofing done by New Technology- 9880916988

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Wanted

FACTORY HELPERS for Laundry in Bannergatta, Bangalore Salary 17,000 + Food + accommodation 8am to 8pm Call 8050666007/ 9880266007/ 9148899007

Engg/ Production Technical

URGENT REQUIREMENT- BE/ Diploma (Civil)/ Any Degree-Freshers/ Experienced in Bangalore, 2 Wheeler Must. 9845009445

CAUTION NOTICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.
Advertisement Manager
The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd.
Bengaluru

TEAK WOOD DISCOUNT SALE
BURMA TEAK ~~Rs.14000~~ Rs.8500/- per Cft
INDIAN TEAK ~~Rs.7800~~ Rs.4500/- per Cft
BIJA(HONNE) HALDU ~~Rs.2800~~ Rs.1250/- per Cft
NALLAMADDI ~~Rs.1900~~ Rs.1150/- per Cft
ALL WOOD VERY VALUABLE & STRONG
LIFE MORE THAN 100 YEARS
FREE TRANSPORT
ASIAN TIMBER ESTATES
◆Beside ORR, Gachibowli Kollur, Hyderabad
Ph: 098480 28811, 09948517777, 081799 22021, 07842576789

Rape case: Prajwal to remain in jail as HC declines to suspend sentence

'Not fit case considering material on record, gravity of offence'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday rejected jailed former MP Prajwal Revanna's application for suspension of his sentence pending his appeal against the conviction in a rape case.

A division bench of Justices K S Mudagal and Venkatesh Naik T noted that it was not a fit case for suspending the sentence and bail, considering the material on record, the gravity of the offence, and the effect on other pending cases against the former Hassan parliamentarian.

The bench also noted that Prajwal was not granted bail during the trial and that he could seek an early hearing if required. The hearing on the appeal has been adjourned until January 12, 2026.

The division bench was hearing the application filed along with an appeal challenging the judgment of the special court for cases involving MPs/MLAs convicting Prajwal and ordering a maximum life sentence (imprisonment for the remainder of a person's natural life).

The case pertains to the sexual assault of a 48-year-old woman, who worked as a maid at the Gannikada guest house in Hassan, which belongs to the Revanna family. Prajwal also allegedly recorded the act on his mobile phone.

Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra, appearing for Prajwal, argued that there was no incriminating material available against the appellant and he should not be kept in custody.

Luthra claimed discrepancies in evidence collection, particularly the video from open source, which he argued lacked credibility.

He further submitted that Prajwal was not given sufficient time, with conviction pronounced on August 1 and sentencing ordered the next day. Prajwal was "falsely implicated in this case owing to political considerations," he argued.

On the other hand, Special Public Prosecutor Ravivarma Kumar, appearing for the Special Investigation Team (SIT), opposed Prajwal's application.

He submitted that the appellant would likely indulge in similar offences and become a menace to society if released on bail. Further, he said that if the application was allowed, the other case, relating to the victim's abduction against Prajwal's parents, would be seriously jeopardised.

"The victim being abducted twice earlier is an indication that it could be further aggravated if the appellant is released on bail," Kumar stated.

This is the first of the four cases of sexual harassment registered against Prajwal. The special court had convicted Prajwal under IPC sections 376(2)(k), (2)(n), 354-A, 354-B, 354-C, 506, 201 and section 66(E) of Information Technology Act.

Work on replacing 33 gates of TB dam likely to start today

HOSAPETE (VIJAYANAGAR DISTRICT), DHNS

The work on replacing the 33 crest gates of the Tungabhadra (TB) dam is likely to start on Friday.

The government is undertaking the work after gate number 19 was washed away in floodwater last year.

"Work to install new gates will start once the water storage level dips from the present 68 tmc ft to 40 tmcft. Initially, the outer covering of the gates will be removed and that starts on Friday. Work on replacing the gates is likely to begin in the third week of December," section engineer Kiran told farmer leaders visiting the dam site on Wednesday.

"Seven gates are being assembled in Hosapete and seven in Gadag. One gate is ready and is on the dam site. Three of the gates assembled in Gadag have reached Munirabad," the engineer said. Four additional gates are under preparation in Ahmedabad.

Kiran said old gates will be replaced as and when the new gates reach the TB dam premises.

It takes seven days to remove one old gate and another seven days to install a new one, he told reporters.

Thus, all 33 crest gates of the over seven-decade-old reservoir would be replaced by June next year.

The government is undertaking the work after gate number 19 of the Tungabhadra dam was washed away in floodwater last year. DH FILE PHOTO

Collision between car and tractor leaves four dead

JAMKHANDI (BAGALKOT DISTRICT), DHNS: In a tragic accident, four youngsters died when the car they were travelling in rammed into a sugarcane-laden tractor near the Prabhulingeshwara Sugar Factory near Siddapur in Jamkhandi around midnight on Tuesday.

Praveen Shedabala (22), a resident of Siddapura, was at the wheel of the car, and was travelling with 20-year-old Ganesh Allimatti, Vishwanath Kambara and Prajwal Shedabala, both of whom were 17. The four of them were headed to Shirola village in Mudhol taluk to watch a programme at the Kadasiddeshwara Temple Fair when the accident occurred.

Incidentally, Ganesh's father Bheemappa was also en route to Shirola and saw the collision between the car and the tractor, although he did not know his son was in the car. He stopped his vehicle and stepped out to rescue those in the car, when he got the shock of his life seeing his son trapped inside the vehicle. Although Bheemappa rushed Ganesh to a nearby hospital, his son succumbed to his injuries.

In a tragic twist of fate, Prajwal Shedabala's father had met the same fate two years ago.

Prajwal's father had been travelling by bike when he collided with a tractor and ultimately died.

Gold worth Rs 70 lakh stolen from Surpur JE's house

SURPUR (YADGIR DISTRICT), DHNS: Thieves allegedly broke into the locked house of a Surpur City Municipal Council junior engineer (JE) and made away with cash and valuables worth over Rs 70 lakh here on Tuesday.

The engineer, Mahesh and his brother, Prakash, a teacher, had rented a house on Satyampete Road. They left their home in the evening on Tuesday to attend the Maragamma temple fair in Divalagudda. The thieves are suspected of having broken the clasp of the door and broken into the house around 8 pm on Tuesday.

The thieves found Rs 40,000 in cash, besides 642 grams of gold valued at over Rs 70 lakh, and 1,295 gram of silver estimated to be worth Rs 77,000, police said. Additional Superintendent of Police Dharanesh visited Mahesh's home to take stock of the crime scene. A team of cops has been constituted to hunt the thieves down.

No politics in talks with Venugopal: CM

Supporters raise slogans hailing Siddu, DKS at airport

MANGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that he did not discuss politics with All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary K C Venugopal.

To a question on Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar visiting Delhi, he said, "I will go to Delhi if called by the high command."

Earlier in the day, the chief minister met AICC general secretary K C Venugopal at the Mangalore University guest house and held discussions.

Slogans in support of DKS, Siddaramaiah

There was high drama when Congress workers, who had gathered at the Mangaluru International Airport on Wednesday to welcome Venugopal, raised slogans in support of Shivakumar.

Venugopal arrived in the city to take part in the centenary celebrations of the dialogue between Mahatma Gandhi and Narayana Guru, organised by Sivagiri Mutt in Varkala and in collaboration with the Mangalore University Sri Narayana Guru Study Chair at the Mangalore University campus in Konaje.

KPCC general secretary Mithun Rai, along with party workers, had assembled at the airport to receive him.

As soon as Venugopal came out of the airport, the Congress workers raised slogans in favour of Shivakumar.

Congress leaders, including MLC Ivan D'Souza, showed their support for Siddaramaiah by raising slogans in his favour.

Speaking to mediapersons, Mithun Rai said, "As a part of protocol, we raised slogans in support of Rahul Gandhi, AICC general secretary K C Venugopal and then KPCC president D K Shivakumar. It was Shivakumar who gave strength to booth-level workers."

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and AICC general secretary K C Venugopal share a word during the centenary celebrations of the dialogue between Mahatma Gandhi and social reformer Narayana Guru on the Mangalore University campus at Konaje in Mangaluru on Wednesday. DH PHOTO

"On my personal front, I pray to God to ensure that my political guru D K Shivakumar becomes the chief minister at the earliest. But we all abide by the party high command's decision. We don't have factions in the party. Siddaramaiah is a tall leader in the party who is known for his leadership."

DCM leaves for Delhi, say he's attending marriage, party event

BENGALURU, DHNS: A day after hosting Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for breakfast, Deputy Chief Minister (DCM) D K Shivakumar travelled to Delhi on Wednesday — a visit that he claimed was for a marriage and to make preparations for an event on 'vote chori'.

"I have to attend the wedding of a close friend's (an IAS officer) son. Also, on December 14, there is a huge meeting at Ramleela Maidan on vote chori. For that programme, 30 people should go from each district. I have sounded out all Cabinet ministers and MLAs regarding this," Shivakumar told reporters.

'Family affair of Congress'

When asked about Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's meeting with AICC general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal in Mangaluru, he asked what was wrong with it and termed it a "family affair" of the Congress. The deputy chief minister was also asked about slogans raised by Congress workers in Mangaluru in favour of both him and Siddaramaiah.

Noting that such slogans were common in politics, he said: "There's nothing wrong with it. They do so out of love and affection. It should be taken in a sportive way".

Dismisses remarks on watch

The deputy chief minister dismissed criticism by the Opposition over Chief Minister Siddaramaiah wearing a "costly" watch. Showing his watch, Shivakumar said he had bought it by paying Rs 24 lakh in Australia through his official credit card. "He (CM) has every right to wear whichever watch he wants".

IIC Regional Meet 2025 opens at RUAS

Abhishek Ranjan (seated) felicitated by (left to right) Amrita Tiwary, S Ashok Rao, Dr N H Siddalinga Swamy, Prof Kuldeep Kumar Raina and Dr Kiran Kumar B M.

The Institutions Innovation Council (IIC) Regional Meet 2025 was inaugurated on Tuesday at the Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (RUAS). The event was conducted by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell, and hosted by RUAS.

The programme began with the Ramaiah Anthem followed by the rendering of Vande Mataram. S Ashok Rao, Registrar, RUAS, delivered the welcome address while Prof Kuldeep Kumar Raina, Vice Chancellor, formally welcomed the dignitaries. Copies of the Constitution of India were distributed among all the dignitaries.

Abhishek Ranjan, Innovation Officer, Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell, said, "IIC started with 57 institutions, and RUAS was one among them. Four years ago, there were only 107 institutions. In the next two years, we added more than 500. Across Karnataka, over 1,800 institutions are part of IIC".

T G Sitharam, Chairman, AICTE, attended the event virtually from Delhi. "This regional meet holds immense importance. Over the past seven years, IIC has undertaken significant work. Across India, there are around 16,400 institutions associated with IIC. Our goal is to increase the number of IIC institutions to 25,000", he said.

Prof Raina said, "It is a matter of pride that the AICTE programme is being held at RUAS. I welcome everyone who has come from different parts of Karnataka and across India. The IIC seed planted by the Ministry of Education in 2018 has now grown into a strong tree."

AICTE Advisor and chief guest Dr N H Siddalinga Swamy said, "You are aware of the YUKTI Innovation Challenge. Young innovators who come up with the best projects are awarded seed funding up to Rs 10 lakhs. We also have the Smart India Hackathon. AICTE also offers a Productisation Fellowship for innovative ideas. Each student team is provided Rs 37,000. We will continue supporting innovative ideas that benefit society."

Indo-American Chamber of Commerce leader and guest of honour Amrita Tiwari said, "Innovation does not happen only in laboratories - it begins with curiosity. When a seed is sown in the right place, it grows well."

Dr Kiran Kumar B M, Associate Professor, RUAS, attended. All the distinguished guests were felicitated and Dr Nayana N Patil, Associate Dean, RUAS, delivered the vote of thanks.

Curated by DH Brandspot

Suresh plays down CM's 'politics not permanent' remark

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru Cooperative Milk Union Ltd President and former MP D K Suresh on Wednesday played down Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's comment that "politics was not permanent," claiming that further analysis on the issue was "unnecessary."

"The chief minister has naturally spoken with someone. It need not be given much importance. Further analysis on the issue is unnecessary," Suresh, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's brother, told reporters.

Speaking about AICC General Secretary K C Venugopal's visit to Karnataka, Suresh noted that the Congress leader had come for an event in Mangaluru, and added that Venugopal would head to his home state Kerala, where local body elections are going on.

Delhi all-party meet put off: DKS

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Wednesday said that the state government has postponed the meeting convened by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with state MPs and Opposition leaders here on December 8.

"Several Union ministers from Karnataka requested us to reschedule the meeting as they are busy with the ongoing winter session of Parliament. I also spoke to the CM and decided to postpone it. Soon, a fresh date will be fixed after consulting MPs," he told reporters.

The CM had announced his plan to hold a joint meeting with Union ministers from the state, MPs, and leaders of all political parties from Karnataka to discuss state issues pending with the Centre

JD(S) mulling changing party's district unit chiefs

Leaders of the party, who are not active, likely to be replaced

BENGALURU, DHNS

The JD(S), which is in the midst of an organisational overhaul, is now considering replacing the chiefs of its district units.

This development comes close on the heels of the JD(S) replacing former minister and party veteran G T Devegowda as the head of the core committee.

Incidentally, Devegowda's successor M Krishna Reddy chaired the first meeting of the party's core committee on Wednesday after his appointment.

The committee members discussed the possibility of replacing those district unit presidents who were not actively working to strengthen the party.

Deliberations

The core committee deliberated on strategies that the party can adopt to strengthen its base in all districts. The presidents of the party's taluk units are likely to be asked to confer with senior leaders and devise plans aimed at strengthening the organisation.

"We will make a list of presidents of taluk and district units who have not been active and have been staying away from party activities. We are also planning for the upcoming elections to local bodies. Bearing all this in mind, it has been decided to replace district unit presidents who are not active," said a source privy to the discussions of the core committee.

Inactive presidents are unlikely to be replaced forthwith, and may be given a warning to begin with, the source added.

Now, Jarkiholi says power is not permanent

MANGALURU, DHNS: Public Works Department Minister Satish Jarkiholi said on Wednesday that one must step aside at some point, even if it is after 10 years and "power is not permanent."

Responding to questions from reporters about Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and AICC general secretary K C Venugopal's visit to take part in the centenary of the dialogue between Mahatma Gandhi and social reformer Narayana Guru here, he said, "Whenever the high command decides that we should relinquish office, we will do so."

"The chief minister has come only to attend the programme. There were no political discussions. If you want to know what he discussed, you should ask him," he said.

When asked about supporters raising slogans in favour of Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah at the airport, he said: "There is no use in raising such slogans. There is no confusion among us. Everything is clear, and both leaders have already spoken to each other."

FAITHFULS' FULFILMENT

Devotees climb Anjanadri Hill, the birthplace of Lord Hanuman, for 'visarjane' of Hanuma mala on the occasion of Hanumad Vrata, in Gangavathi taluk of Koppal district on Wednesday morning. The faithful started arriving in their thousands since early morning, causing congestion on the winding steps. Sensing trouble, police asked devotees to move in groups, thus avoiding untoward incidents.

3,187 km of NH projects sanctioned to state: Gadkari

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday informed Parliament that 3,187 km of national highway projects were sanctioned to Karnataka in the last five years.

Replying to BJP member Lahar Singh Siroya during Question Hour in Rajya Sabha, Gadkari said these roads included expressways & economic corridors.

In Lok Sabha, Davangere MP Prabha Mallikarjun urged the government to instal BSNL towers in rural areas and sought early revision of salaries for BSNL employees.

Raising the matter during Zero Hour, she said even now, many villages, including Haleshpur in Channagiri taluk, did not have mobile network coverage.

She demanded that immediate steps be taken to instal BSNL towers.

2.34L ineligible ration cards cancelled in state

KARNATAKA in PARLIAMENT

The Centre on Wednesday informed the Lok Sabha that a total of 2.34 lakh ineligible ration cards had been cancelled in Karnataka in the last five years.

Replying to a question by Kalaburagi MP Radhakrishna during Question Hour, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs Nimuben Jayantibhai Bambhaniya said that 2.25 crore ration cards had been cancelled in the country in this period.

This followed digitization of ration cards and their Aadhaar linking. Deaths and permanent migration of beneficiaries were among reasons for the cancellation.

In 2024–25, the department undertook a process of cancelling ineligible ration cards through comprehensive data analysis, she said.

Data of beneficiaries aged over 100 years, inactive ration cards, duplicate cards and single-member cards, where beneficiary is below 18 years of age, were shared with departments.

Through this, 8.51 crore beneficiaries were identified, field verification was conducted and states were informed.

Registrar need not issue notice before registering GPA cancellation: High court

BENGALURU, DHNS: There is no rule or law under the Registration Act or the Powers of Attorney Act, and the rules made thereunder which mandates that before registering a deed of cancellation, the registrar must issue a notice to the holder of the Power of Attorney, the high court ruled in a recent judgment.

Justice D K Singh said this while dismissing a petition filed by North Roof Ventures Private Limited, challenging the registration of a cancellation deed.

The company, formerly NHDPL South Limited and earlier known as Nitesh Housing Developers Limited, challenged the April 24, 2024, registration of cancellation deed of a General Power of Attorney (GPA).

The GPA was executed on September 30, 2009, by H R Suresh in favour of the company pursuant to a joint development agreement of the same date. The agreement was for the purpose of developing a housing project — Nitesh Columbia Square — on the lands of Suresh, measuring 4.14 acres at Kattigenahalli Village, Jala hobli, Bengaluru North additional taluk.

Suresh executed the cancellation of GPA on grounds of violation of the terms and conditions of the GPA. The company argued that he was not entitled to revoke the GPA.

The court noted that a mere label does not make GPA irrevocable and it may be terminated by the principal, subject to contractual consequences (damages), notice, etc.

"The terms of the Power of Attorney and other related documents are to be examined, and the evidence is required to be led, then only, the validity of the cancellation of the Power of Attorney can be decided. Therefore, the parties should not come before the high court, but should resort to the proper civil law remedy for such a dispute," Justice Singh said.

The court said that the registrar should satisfy himself about the right of the person presenting a unilateral cancellation to seek registration.

The registrar may refuse unilateral cancellation of the previously registered instruments, unless the cancellation is supported by the principal's concurrence or by a competent court order, the court said.

"The registrar's role primarily is administrative. The registrar is not empowered to adjudicate the title or the dispute between the parties regarding the respective obligations under the Power of Attorney. The cancellation, however, can be subject matter through a challenge in the appropriate civil forum. There is no overarching duty on the registrar to give notice in every case," the court said.

DHiE Expressions opens with colour, energy and strong student turnout

BENGALURU, DHNS

The 2025–26 edition of DHiE Expressions opened in Bengaluru with colour, energy and an early rush of excitement as more than 350 students gathered at Bal Bhavan for Day 1 of the three-day festival.

Students arrived with sketchbooks and supplies in hand, filling the venue with lively chatter as teachers guided them through the morning at Cubbon Park.

The painting competition drew participants from Classes 5 to 10. Junior students worked on themes like Underwater Life and Festivals of India, producing vibrant depictions of sea creatures, coral reefs and celebratory scenes from across the country. Senior students responded to Indian culture and heritage and sustainable future/green India, using symbolism and narrative to represent cultural identity, environmental concerns and visions of a cleaner, greener India.

Winners of senior and junior division quiz competition in DHiE Expressions in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Winners of senior and junior division painting competition. DH PHOTOS/PUSHKAR V

The artworks were judged by Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath's Rohini Bharvadiya and Tarang Acharya, along with art and calligraphy specialist Kalpana Brahmadeshem.

Quiz rounds added a lively intellectual edge to the event. More than 45 teams participated, with only six teams each in junior and senior categories advancing to finals.

Questions ranged from identifying the statue of Albert Einstein in Switzerland to recognising a snow leopard and peahen, locating Sankey Tank and naming animals based on number of toes.

Senior finalists tackled themes on wildlife and Founding Fathers. Quizmaster Arul Mani, Dean, School of Languages and Literatures at St Joseph's University, said the engagement from both participants and audience made the rounds particularly spirited.

B R Naidu, chairman of Bal Bhavan Society, addressed the students virtually, encouraging them to give their best shot in whatever they do.

PRIZE WINNERS

SENIORS – QUIZ

First Prize: **Vedanth & Himanshu** – Bunts Sangha RNS Vidyaniketan, CBSE

Second Prize: **Pranav & Shrikiran** – Sree Ayyappa Education Centre (CBSE), Chikkabanavara

Third Prize: **Dheeraj & Shaan** – Silicon City Academy of Secondary Education

Consolation Prize: **Vihaan & Abhishek** – National Public School, Koramangala

JUNIORS – QUIZ

First Prize: **Abinash Mohapatro & T Pranav** – St Michael's High School

Second Prize: **Nikhil & Advaith** – Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Halasuru

Third Prize: **Parth Aggarwal & Siddharth C** – National Public School, Silk Board

Consolation Prize: **Vaishnavi S K & Pranav S** – National Public School, Rajajinagar

SENIORS – PAINTING

First Prize: **Nidhi S** – Embassy Public School, Magadi Road

Second Prize: **Tanmay H R** – Sree Ayyappa Education Centre (CBSE), Chikkabanavara Post

Third Prize: **Nianagal** – Baldwin International School

Consolation Prizes:

1. **Poornasthree** – Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Halasuru
2. **Varsha Hegde** – Soundarya School, Havanur Extension
3. **Preethu P** – MTB Jnana Jyothi Vidyanikethan
4. **Namrata Dasari** – Sri Vidya Mandir Education Society
5. **Divyanshi Mandal** – MVJ International School, Marathahalli

JUNIORS – PAINTING

First Prize: **Aarush R** – National Public School, Yeshwantpur

Second Prize: **Dananthi Bhat S** – Sree Ayyappa Educational Centre (State)

Third Prize: **Vybhavi K M** – VLS International School

Consolation Prizes:

1. **Harshini G** – Blossom School, Kanakapura
2. **Yuvaan Singh** – National Public School, Yeshwanthpur
3. **Tanish Garodi** – Bunts Sangha RNS, Attiguppe
4. **Vanalika K** – Sophia High School
5. **Ishaan N Shetty** – BSRNSV, Attiguppe

Advanced command & control units for tech-driven wildlife protection

Four out of 11 CCCs become operational

SHILPA P
MYSURU, DHNS

Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre on Wednesday symbolically launched the Divisional Central Command and Control (CCC) Unit at the MM Hills Wildlife Division office in Kollegal, Chamarajanagar district, marking a major step toward technology-driven wildlife protection, scientific conservation, and effective human–wildlife conflict mitigation.

Khandre said the CCC represents "a major leap" in conservation capacity, using advanced analytics, real-time monitoring, and integrated response systems.

Training and rollout of CCC Units were completed on Wednesday in MM Hills, Nagarahole Tiger Reserve, Kali Tiger Reserve, and Madikeri divisions. Units in Bandipur, BRT, Chikkamagaluru, Hassan, Bannerghatta, and Mysuru divisions will be operational next week.

APCCF Manoj Rajan, who is heading the project, said an integrated state-level CCC will be set up at Aranya Bhavan, Bengaluru.

The CCC Units are real-time technology platforms integrating patrol monitoring, conflict reporting, wildlife tracking, and asset management into a unified operational system.

Explaining the four key modules, he said the patrolling module uses GPS-enabled tracking of patrol teams, optimised route planning, and live dashboards.

Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre launches the Central Command and Control (CCC) Unit at the MM Hills wildlife division office in Kollegal of Chamarajanagar district on Wednesday. MLA M R Manjunath, Conservator of Forests S S Ravishankar and Chamarajanagar DC Shilpa Nag are seen.
DH PHOTO

The human–animal conflict and incident reporting module enables field-level reporting of sightings, conflict incidents, and emergencies, with AI-driven image classification and automated threat prioritisation. The animal tracking module integrates radio collars, camera traps, and sensors for continuous monitoring and predictive analytics to prevent conflict, Rajan said.

The asset and infrastructure management module digitally maps EPTs, barricades, solar fences, sensors, and cameras, and generates maintenance alerts for better planning, he added.

Expected outcomes include reduced emergency response time, data-driven deployment of staff and equipment, predictive modelling to prevent conflict escalation, and unified situational awareness across the department, Rajan said.

Conservator of Forests (Mysuru Circle) S S Ravishankar said the new CCC Units will significantly strengthen the handling of man–animal conflict scenarios through optimal use of manpower and resources.

The Forest Department's central helpline 1926 will be integrated into the system. While earlier command centres existed in Hassan and BRT, the new CCC Units are "fully advanced," equipped with real-time information on conflict incidents, behavioural patterns, and movement of elephants, leopards, and tigers.

He said the centres will maintain a complete communication network of officials and store contact details of forest-fringe residents to send bulk safety alerts. This will reduce response time and help deploy rapid response teams more efficiently.

"People can directly contact the centres, making them more people-friendly," he added.

Car manufacturer in Slovakia in need of skilled professionals from Karnataka

BENGALURU, DHNS

Skilled professionals from the state of Karnataka appear to be in high demand in countries across the globe, including many in Europe. The latest nation to put in a plea for skilled manpower from the state is Slovakia, in eastern Europe.

On Wednesday, the Karnataka delegation headed by Medical Education Minister Dr Sharan Prakash Patil and Dr M C Sudhakar halted in Slovakia, after pitstops in other European countries as part of the state government's efforts to drive participation in the International Job Fair slated to be held in February 2026. Automobile manufacturer Stellantis, which makes the Citroën C3, A3 Aircross and Opel Frontera, among other cars, placed a formal request with the Karnataka government seeking professionals equipped with advanced skills in the automobile and electrical sectors.

Incidentally, Stellantis currently employs around 100 assembly-line operators from Karnataka at its Tranava plant near Bratislava, the country's capital. Representatives from the company presented their request to the ministers and the rest of the delegation. Meanwhile, the two ministers toured the plant, and also took stock of the measures taken by the company to ensure the welfare of Karnataka workers.

"Stellantis currently employs more than 50 heavy vehicle drivers and 100 assembly-line operators trained and upskilled by the Karnataka Vocational Training and Skill Development Corporation. The International Immigration Centre of Karnataka facilitated the workers' placement in the company," said an official who is part of the Karnataka delegation.

Dr Patil informed Stellantis representatives about the various initiatives – language labs, upskilling projects – taken by the Karnataka government to prepare professionals for overseas employment. The minister urged India's Ambassador to Slovakia Apoorva Srivastava to expedite the visa processing procedure, about which Stellantis recruitment head Katrinaa Felcova raised concerns.

Pointing to Karnataka's huge pool of engineers – more than one lakh students graduate with engineering graduates annually in the state – the two ministers urged the company to consider hiring them, besides inviting Stellantis to establish a manufacturing unit in the state. Stellantis was assured of not just land, but also infrastructure to set up such a unit in the state.

At a meeting with representatives of logistics giant DHL in Nitra, not far from Bratislava, the ministers were informed about the growing demand in Europe for advanced and heavy forklift operators.

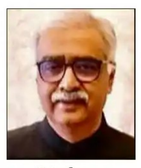
DHL's country HR Lead Milos Gocik expressed his company's keenness to hire such operators in large numbers from Karnataka. He also pointed to abundant opportunities in 50 specialised IT fields in Slovakia alone.

Mohan Katarki selected for Lawyers of India Day Award- 2025

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Senior advocate Mohan V Katarki has been selected for the prestigious Lawyers of India Day Award-2025.

This accolade, bestowed by the Bar Association of India, felicitates eminent members of the Bar every year who have made valuable contributions to the legal profession and their role in promoting the rule of law in India.

The Lawyers of India Day Award is a tribute to outstanding lawyers who have shown exemplary dedication and commitment to legal ethics, justice, and civic responsibility, said a statement.



Mohan Katarki

Katarki, a designated senior advocate of the Supreme Court of India, is known for his expertise in international law, Inter-State Water Law, and Constitutional Law.

With four decades of extensive experience, Katarki has focused on federal litigations, particularly concerning the sharing of India's Inter-State river waters and the enforcement of cross-border decisions. He has represented Karnataka, Punjab, Kerala, and Odisha, as well as the Union Territory of Delhi, in interstate disputes.

He has advised various states on inter-state river water issues, including construction, operation, and safety of significant high dams.

This includes the Krishna Raja Sagar dam, Hemavathy dam, and Kabini dam in the Cauvery basin; the Almatti dam and Malaprabha dam in the Krishna basin; the Bhakra-Nangal dam in the Indus basin; the Hirakud dam in the Mahanadi basin; and the Mullaperiyar dam in the Periyar basin.

PERFECT FIT

Sellers of winter wear make a brisk business as mercury plummets in Bengaluru.
DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

62 flights at KIA among over 100...

Flights, from Page 1

At least 38 flights were also cancelled at the Delhi airport, 33 at the Mumbai airport and 31 at the Hyderabad airport.

"A multitude of unforeseen operational challenges, including minor technology glitches, schedule changes linked to the winter season, adverse weather conditions, increased congestion in the aviation system and the implementation of updated crew rostering rules (Flight Duty Time Limitations) had a negative compounding impact on our operations in a way that was not feasible to be anticipated," the airline said in a statement.

However, a BIAL spokesperson confirmed that there was no congestion at KIA on Wednesday.

The company has initiated calibrated adjustments to restore stability. "These measures will remain in place for the next 48 hours and will allow us to normalise our operations and progressively recover our punctuality across the network," it said.

Twenty IndiGo flights were also cancelled at KIA on December 2. Passengers at the airport have complained about severe delays, between one and three hours, in IndiGo flights over the past week.

Many passengers have taken to social media to voice their frustrations.

"Harrowing experience with #Indigoairlines #Indigo They cancelled 11.30 am non-stop flight from Udaipur to Bengaluru, intimated that at 8 am. The online alternatives given for today were all connecting flights of 10 + hr reaching midnight or next day in Bangalore. There's no compensation, no proper alternative arrangements, no importance for customer convenience. Not even any food options are offered for such an inconvenience. #Indigo charged me nearly Rs 7.5k for a non-stop flight. I now don't know when at all I am going to reach Bangalore," Eupa Basu wrote on X.

Another X user, Vikram Parth, shared, "Unacceptable flight delays by @IndiGo6E. 6 5293 from Bangalore to Mumbai delayed multiple times. From 12.30 pm to 2.05 pm to 3.45 pm to 4.40 pm. Wasting the entire day at the airport thanks to Indigo. Thousands of passengers stranded in Bangalore airport."

At the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Hyderabad, angry passengers engaged in heated arguments with the airline's ground staff.

At one point Lord Ayyappa devotees broke into impromptu bhajans in protest, expressing frustration over the lack of clear communication from the airline.

Sources at RGIA said IndiGo cancelled at least 13 outgoing flights at Hyderabad to various destinations, including Delhi and Bengaluru.

In addition to the outgoing flights, 18 incoming flights from different destinations were also cancelled, while nine flights had been called off on Tuesday.

Videos circulating on social media showed frustrated passengers confronting IndiGo staff over prolonged delays. One user on X wrote, "Deeply unfortunate to see #Ayyappa devotees forced to protest at Hyderabad Airport after @IndiGo6E failed to address hours-long delays. Passengers deserve clarity and responsible service. Hope the authorities take immediate action," tagging Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Ministers Amit Shah and Ram Mohan Naidu.

The latest FDTL norms, which entail increased weekly rest periods to 48 hours, extension of night hours, and limiting the number of night landings to only two as against six earlier were initially opposed by the domestic airlines, including IndiGo and Tata Group-owned Air India.

In the statement, IndiGo said its teams are working around the clock to ease customer discomfort and ensure operations stabilise as quickly as possible.

"Furthermore, the affected customers are being offered alternative travel arrangements to reach their destinations or refunds, as applicable".

New apartment bill mandates...

Apartment bill, from Page 1

The bill mandates forming an association of allottees representing all allottees for carrying out its provisions.

The proposed legislation seeks to form a competent authority, which will register and regulate the association of allottees or federations registered under the Act.

"The government may, by notification, appoint one or more officers of the local authority or the planning authority not below the rank of Group B, as the competent authority, to exercise the powers conferred on it and to perform the functions within the local limit as assigned to it under the Act."

The bill bestows upon the competent authority the powers of a civil court.

Unlike the earlier laws — The Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960, and the Karnataka Ownership Act, 1972 — the new bill mandates uniform model bylaws and makes compliance under it mandatory.

"The association of allottees shall administer the affairs of the apartment and the property appurtenant thereto including the common areas and facilities, in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the bye-laws of the association of allottees," the bill notes.

The bill seeks to establish an appellate authority for conflict resolution.

This is different from the earlier two laws, where the conflict resolution was internal, where the concerned parties had to approach the civil court for any relief.

As per the bill, one or more officers can be appointed as the first appellate authority but they must not be below the rank of Group A (Junior Scale). Any person aggrieved by an order or direction passed by the first appellate authority can approach the second appellate authority. The bill imposes a maximum fine of Rs 1 lakh on any promoter who fails to comply with it.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered agencies for the following works.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD (in Rs,)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.					
01	North West-2	BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/PB/ 4062/2025-26 Date: 02.12.2025 (Reserved for CAT-II(A))	Rs. 16,76,697/- / Rs. 21,000/-	14.12.2025 upto 4:00 p.m.	15.12.2025 after 4:30 p.m.
02		BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/PB/ 4062/2025-26 Date: 02.12.2025	Rs. 7,21,711/- / Rs. 18,100/-		
03		BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/PB/ 4062/2025-26 Date: 02.12.2025	Rs. 29,69,511/- / Rs. 59,400/-		
04		BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/PB/ 4062/2025-26 Date: 02.12.2025	Rs. 11,55,519/- / Rs. 28,900/-		
05		BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/PB/ 4062/2025-26 Date: 02.12.2025	Rs. 7,71,335/- / Rs. 19,300/-		
06		BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/PB/ 4062/2025-26 Date: 02.12.2025	Rs. 16,59,667/- / Rs. 41,500/-		
07		BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/PB/ 4062/2025-26 Date: 02.12.2025 (Reserved for ST Category)	Rs. 10,33,043/- / Rs. 13,000/-		
08		BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/PB/ 4062/2025-26 Date: 02.12.2025 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs. 23,70,931/- / Rs. 25,000/-		
09		BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/PB/ 4062/2025-26 Date: 02.12.2025	Rs. 17,42,081/- / Rs. 43,600/-		
10		BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/PB/ 4062/2025-26 Date: 02.12.2025 (Reserved for CAT-II(A))	Rs. 21,43,272/- / Rs. 25,000/-		
11		BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/PB/ 4062/2025-26 Date: 02.12.2025 (Reserved for CAT-I)	Rs. 63,55,789/- / Rs. 63,600/-		
12		BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/PB/ 4062/2025-26 Date: 02.12.2025	Rs. 62,16,460/- / Rs. 1,24,400/-		
13		BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/PB/ 4062/2025-26 Date: 02.12.2025 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs. 69,94,890/- / Rs. 70,000/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North West)-2.

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-East), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.					
14	WWM (CV)-1	BWSSB/EE/(WWM)CV-1/PB/ 632/2025-26 Date: 03.12.2025	Rs. 48.61 Lakhs / Rs. 1.14 Lakhs	11.12.2025 upto 4:00 p.m.	12.12.2025 at 4:10 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, WWM(CV)-1.

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & Quality Assurance), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.					
15	BW & PS - 2	BWSSB /EBWPS-2TE/AE/ 4750/2025-26 Date: 02.12.2025	Rs. 19,91,202/- / Rs. 39,900/-	15.12.2025 upto 11:00 a.m.	16.12.2025 after 11:15 a.m.
16		BWSSB/EBWPS-2TE/AE/ 4751/2025-26 Date: 02.12.2025	Rs. 67,07,280/- / Rs. 1,34,146/-		
17		BWSSB/EBWPS-2TE/AE/ 4752/2025-26 Date: 02.12.2025	Rs. 13,06,828/- / Rs. 26,137/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (BW & PS)-2.

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/RA/4183/2025-26

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
Regd.Office: BMTC Complex, 3rd Floor, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027. India e-Mail: contracts@bmrc.co.in
Website: www.bmrc.co.in
Bid No: BMRCL/DGM(C)/PD/ParkingTender/Reach-1,2,3,4&5/No.52/2025-26 Dated: 03.12.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Subject: AWARD LICENSE FOR OPERATING PARKING LOTS AT-REACH-1,2,3,4&5 METRO STATIONS

BID SCHEDULE: Sale of bid document: **3rd December 2025 to 29th December 2025.** Tender Document Cost: **Rs.5,000/-.** Address for purchase: **Through KPP Portal.** Pre-Bid meeting: **22nd December 2025 at 3:00 PM.** Bid Submission Due Date: **29th December 2025 up to 5:00 PM** Tender Opening date: **31st December 2025 at 11:00 AM**. Brief details of the tender terms and conditions are uploaded in the BMRCL website.

Sd/- Deputy General Manager (C), BMRCL

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal only)

KPTCL Invites bids against bid enquiry numbers for the following works:

1.SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/AEE-2/25-26/EPR-14/3976-78 Date:02.12.2025

Bid Enquiry No:KPTCL/SEE/Tr(Op)/S-Circle/EE(O)/AEE-2/25-26/EPR-14/Call-3 Dated: 09.09.2025 for "The work of Upgradation of protection system at 220kV station, BWSSB, Tataguni, Kanakapura Road, Bengaluru" on Turnkey Basis on Percentage Basis" pertains to Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Bengaluru".

2.SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-180(07)/25-26/3979-80 Date:02.12.2025

Bid Enquiry No:KPTCL/SEE/Tr(Op)/S-Circle/EE(O)/AEE-1/24-25/EPR-15, Call-5, Dated 01.10.2024 for the work of increasing the Vertical Clearance of existing 66kV HAL – BWTC-1&2 (HAL –K.B.Halli& HAL-Bagmane – GTRE) D/C Line between Tower number 5 & 6 in jagdeeshnagar by proving an intermediate tower (66kV DD plus 0, NBT, KPTCL Design) in TLM Sub-Division Hoody, Bengaluru.

3.SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-180(12)/25-26/3981-82 Date:02.12.2025

Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/Tr(Op)/S-Circle/EE(O)/AEE-1/24-25/EPR-15, Call-11, Dated 01.10.2024 for the work of increasing the Vertical Clearance of existing 66kV ITI-Hebbala-1&2 (Hebbala-L.R. Bande & Hebbala- Banaswadi tapped to pottery road) double circuit line between tower No.06 & 07 in HMT Layout, R.T Nagar by providing 02 Nos of 66kV DC plus 6 NBT KPTCL design towers in TLM Sub-Division Hoody, BengaluruBengaluru.

The Bids will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **'E Procurement KPTCL'** or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **04.12.2025.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the under signed.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele,)
Transmission (Operations) Circle-South, KPTCL,
Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560009.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at few places over South Interior Karnataka. Dry weather prevailed over Coastal and North Interior Karnataka
Forecast Dec 04: Rainfall to occur at few places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	28.8	16.6	00
Bidar	28	14.4	00
Vijayapura	28.5	15.4	00
Dharwad	28.2	15.6	00
Haveri	30	17.4	00
Kalaburagi	31.5	18.2	00
Raichur	30.6	18	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	33.5	22	00
Karwar	34.8	23	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	32.2	24.2	00

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	NA
Bengaluru	26.6	19.4	0.8
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	29.1	18.9	00
Davangere	30	16	00
Hassan	NA	NA	NA
Mysuru	31	21	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	25	17.8	00

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	25.8	6.4	00
Kolkata	28.2	16.9	00
Mumbai	32.6	18	00
Chennai	24.6	23	30
Pune	28.2	11.5	00
Hyderabad	28.8	17.8	00
Th'puram	31.8	24.7	00

Coldrif syrup maker used industrial-grade raw material: ED

NEW DELHI, PTI: The manufacturer of Coldrif syrup, whose consumption is alleged to have killed at least 20 children in Madhya Pradesh, used industrial-grade raw materials instead of pharma-grade sans quality checks to prepare the medicine, an ED probe has found.

The federal probe agency further claimed that officials of the Tamil Nadu Drugs Control Department were in "frequent touch" with proprietor G Ranganathan of the accused company—Chennai-based Sresan Pharmaceuticals—but the mandated annual inspections of the firm were "not" conducted.

The Enforcement Directorate stated this in a press release issued on Wednesday, as it attached two flats in Chennai belonging to Ranganathan and his family members.

The assets are located at Kodambakkam in Tamil Nadu's capital city and are worth Rs 2.04 crore, the statement said.

Ranganathan was arrested by the Madhya Pradesh Police in October.

The agency alleged Sresan Pharma indulged in "rampant unfair trade practices to suppress its manufacturing costs and increase profits which are nothing but proceeds of crime under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act".

The probe found, it said, that the manufacturer used industry-grade raw materials in the manufacturing of medicines instead of pharma-grade raw materials "without" proper quality checks.

Detention centres for 'illegal' immigrants in UP

LUCKNOW, DHNS: The Uttar Pradesh government plans to crack down on "illegal" Rohangiya Muslims and Bangladeshis living in different parts of the state.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday directed officials in all 17 municipal corporations in the state to make a list of the Rohangiya Muslims and Bangladeshis who were mainly engaged in sanitation jobs and hand it over to the commissioners and inspectors general (IGs).

The commissioners and IGs, in turn, have been directed to set up detention centres along the lines of Delhi in every division in the state in the first stage, according to the sources here.

Sources said the work of identifying places to house these immigrants had started. "They will be housed in vacant government buildings, community centres, and Police Lines under strict security," said an official.

The officials said many illegal immigrants also possessed documents to claim benefits from government welfare schemes, and that the officials had been asked to verify them.

The illegal immigrants would be kept in the detention centres until their verification and deportation to their respective countries.

Sources said the drive to trace Rohangiya Muslim and Bangladeshi immigrants had already started in several districts, and that it was likely to gain pace after the CM's latest directive.

Putin begins 2-day India visit today

PM Modi to host private dinner amid strains in India-US ties

NEW DELHI, PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will host a private dinner for Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday, hours after he lands in New Delhi with a broader goal to shore up bilateral strategic and economic partnership, against the backdrop of a sharp downturn in India's relations with the US.

Boosting defence ties, insulating bilateral trade from external pressure and exploring cooperation in small modular reactors are set to be the focus of the summit talks between Modi and Putin on Friday that are expected to be closely watched by Western capitals.

The Russian president is likely to arrive in New Delhi at around 4:30 pm on Thursday, and hours later, Modi will host him for a private dinner in reciprocation of a similar gesture extended to the Indian prime minister by the Russian leader during his visit to Moscow in July last year.

On Friday, Putin will be accorded a ceremonial welcome before the 23rd India-Russia summit. Modi will also host a working lunch for the Russian leader and his delegation at Hyderabad House, the venue for the summit. Putin will also visit Rajghat in the morning, sources said.

An artist makes a poster of Russian President Vladimir Putin, in Amritsar, on Wednesday. Portraits of prominent Indian leaders are seen on right. PTI

After the summit, Putin is set to launch the new India channel of Russian state-run broadcaster RT, following which he will attend a state banquet to be hosted in his honour by President Droupadi Murmu.

The Russian leader is expected to leave India at around 9:30 pm on Friday, wrapping up his nearly 28-hour visit.

In the summit talks, New Delhi is expected to press for addressing the increasing trade deficit caused by India's procurement of large volumes of Russian crude oil.

The Russian president's trip to India is taking place at a time when India-US relations are going through possibly the worst phase in the last two decades after Washington imposed a whopping 50% tariff on Indian goods, including 25% levies for New Delhi's procurement of Russian crude oil.

The impact of American sanctions on India's procurement of Russian crude oil is likely to be discussed at the summit. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov on Tuesday said New Delhi's purchase of crude oil from Russia may decline for "a brief period" in view of Western sanctions, but, at the same time, he said Moscow is taking steps to enhance the supplies.

At the summit, Putin is expected to apprise Modi about the latest US efforts to bring an end to the Ukraine conflict. India has been consistently maintaining that dialogue and diplomacy is the only way forward to end the war.

Ahead of the summit, the two defence ministers will meet on Thursday to discuss India's plan to buy more S-400 missile systems and other key military hardware from Russia.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and party president Mallikarjun Kharge during Parliament's Winter Session on Wednesday. PTI

Oppn protests 'anti-worker' labour codes

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Opposition on Wednesday mounted pressure on the Central government over what it said were "anti-worker" Labour Codes, staging a joint protest outside Parliament House a day after the government scheduled a discussion on electoral reforms.

Senior leaders—including the Congress' Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra; the DMK's T R Baalu and Kanimozhi; the Trinamool Congress' Dola Sen; the CPM's K Radhakrishnan and John Brittas; and the CPI's P Sandosh Kumar—joined MPs holding a banner that read "No to Corporate Jungle Raj, Yes to Labour Justice" at the Makar Dwar.

The Trinamool Congress did not attend a meeting of the Opposition's floor leaders earlier in the day, but joined the protest through Sen, who is also a trade union leader.

The party separately marched from the Gandhi Statue to Makar Dwar, demanding the release of West Bengal's MNREGA dues.

Planning strategy

Before the demonstration, Congress, DMK, RJD, SP, JMM, CPM, CPI, Muslim League, NCP (SP) and Shiv Sena (UBT) floor leaders met to plan their strategy after the Central government agreed to discuss the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Both sides had been in a stalemate for two days. They later agreed to debates on Vande Mataram and electoral reforms next week.

A senior Opposition leader told *DH* they wanted the Houses to run smoothly but would continue pressing the government on key issues.

Proceedings in both Houses remained orderly on Wednesday, unlike the first two days of the Winter Session. The Opposition is expected to raise the issue of air pollution on Thursday.

Kharge, the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, said on X that the Modi government was "anti-labour, anti-worker and pro-cronies."

He highlighted concerns over job security, saying companies could now employ workers on short-term contracts, limiting long-term benefits.

States may also permit 12-hour shifts despite the Code retaining an eight-hour workday on paper, he said.

BJP leadership huddles over UP unit chief election

Flurry of meetings between PM, Shah, Nadda and Santosh

NEW DELHI, DHNS

As the BJP moves to set its organisational issues in order, the party leadership—including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, party president JP Nadda and organisational secretary BL Santosh — got into a huddle. On the third day of the Winter Session in Parliament, key deliberations were held, particularly on the election of the president of the party's Uttar Pradesh unit.

Buzz over meetings

While leaders remained tight-lipped on the matter, the flurry of meetings caused a flutter. Before his meeting with PM Modi, along with Shah and Nadda, Santosh held a one-on-one discussion with Modi. Following the four-way meeting, another round of talks was held among Shah, Nadda and Santosh.

There is speculation that the meeting was held to finalise names for the president of the party's Uttar Pradesh unit. Sources involved in the process said the election will take place within a week. Elections in the country's largest state have been pending for some time, fueling speculation of infighting among the state leadership.

Crucial precursor

The election in Uttar Pradesh is seen as an important precursor to the party's presidential election, which has been pending for three years. Sitting president Nadda has already been given a few extensions.

While elections in at least 19 states are required for the presidential polls to take place, elections have already been completed across 29 state units. "Uttar Pradesh may not be mandatory, but it is important since the prime minister is an elected MP from the state," said a leader involved in the process.

Party sources also indicated a strong likelihood that the presidential election will be held in 2026, as the inauspicious period of Kharmas is currently underway. With the onset of the festival of Uttarayan in mid-January marking the end of Kharmas, the elections may be scheduled around that time.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Minister of State Sukanta Majumdar and others during a meeting, at Parliament House, in New Delhi. PTI

Modi sets targets for MPs of poll-bound states

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

To firm up preparations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been holding deliberations with lawmakers of states that head to the polls in 2026.

He met MPs from Assam on Tuesday, while deliberations were held with lawmakers from Bengal on Wednesday.

He could also hold a meeting with the two lone BJP MPs from Kerala and Tamil Nadu, Suresh Gopi and L Murugan, respectively.

Modi tasked Assam MPs with meeting targets for enrolment of Central-scheme beneficiaries. In the case of Bengal MPs, he wanted them to lend support to the special intensive revision of electoral rolls (SIR), which is underway in the state.

A lawmaker from Assam said the prime minister specifically asked for the enrolment numbers of Central government schemes, especially for women and children.

"He inquired about the number of beneficiaries of schemes like PM Poshan and PM Kisan, and wanted to know the teacher-to-student ratio in rural areas," said the lawmaker.

The MP added that Modi had come with data and asked for specific results by the next Session of Parliament — the Budget Session in February. Assam heads to the polls in March-April next year. "He also told us that we must be connected with the people from the ground," said the lawmaker.

Modi asked the Bengal MPs about the coverage of Central government schemes as well. "He asked us to begin preparing detailed presentations and ensure that all the groundwork for the upcoming political planning and mobilisation is done with," said a lawmaker who was in the meeting.

The PM also told the lawmakers that the attack on BJP MP Khagen Murmu in October was part of the incidents of assaults carried out by the ruling Trinamool Congress, and that the leaders must tell voters about it. One of the instructions he gave was to ensure support for the EC for the SIR process. He also reportedly said that the exercise was crucial for a "fair" election.

After the PM's meeting, senior BJP politician and Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, also held a meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Debates on Vande Mataram, poll reform next week

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Rajya Sabha Business Advisory Committee (BAC) is learnt to have allocated 10 hours each for discussions on Vande Mataram, which will start next Tuesday, and on electoral reforms.

Sources said the business advisory committee met on Wednesday evening, during which it was decided to start the discussion on the 150th year of Vande Mataram, the country's national song, on Tuesday, a day after the Lok Sabha would discuss the subject.

The discussion on electoral reforms is expected to take place after the conclusion of the discussion on Vande Mataram in the Upper House. The debate on electoral reforms will start in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

The first two days of the Winter Session of Parliament witnessed intense protest by the Opposition, which has been demanding an immediate discussion on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Kerala polls to test SDPI's strength after PFI ban

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

FOCUSED GAMBLE

- PFI ban casts shadow, but SDPI eyes gains in polls
- Pitches on development and welfare, not communal issues
- No pre-poll tie-ups; may support LDF or UDF after elections
- Party won 102 seats in 2020 local body polls

The local body elections in Kerala are crucial for the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) in demonstrating its support base, as they mark the first such polls since the Popular Front of India (PFI) was banned.

The SDPI, regarded as the political wing of the PFI, is contesting 1,483 seats across the state. In the 2020 local body elections, the party had secured 102 seats.

The SDPI and PFI share many activists, but the party has not openly acknowledged its association with the banned organisation.

The SDPI has a strong presence in several pockets across Kerala, prompting both the CPM-led Left Democratic Front and the Congress-led United Democratic Front to form overt and covert electoral understandings with the party.

"It's a narrative pushed by vested interest groups that the SDPI is associated with the PFI. While there may be some workers in common, they are different organisations. That is why the PFI ban will have no impact on SDPI's poll prospects," SDPI state president CP Abdul Latheef told *DH*.

In the 2020 local body elections, the SDPI contested around 2,000 seats. This time, the party has scaled it down to 1,483 seats.

Latheef said the SDPI was adopting a more focused approach this time, contesting only in about 1,483 seats where it believes it has strong chances of winning. "We contest elections not by raising communal issues, but by highlighting development and welfare concerns of the people. We continue to receive good response from the public," he said.

No tie-ups

The party is not entering into any pre-poll tie-ups with either the LDF or the UDF. However, Latheef said that after the elections, the SDPI may extend support to either front depending on the circumstances, as it has done earlier, to protect common interests.

Following the Centre's ban on the PFI under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in 2022, there was speculation that the SDPI could also face action. But as a recognised political party with elected representatives, imposing a ban was not easy.

Calcutta HC restores jobs of 32,000 primary teachers

KOLKATA, PTI: In a relief to 32,000 primary school teachers in West Bengal, a division bench of the Calcutta High Court on Wednesday set aside a single bench order that annulled their appointments and observed that "a group of unsuccessful candidates should not be allowed to damage the entire system".

The bench also said it is not inclined to uphold the single bench order, as irregularities have not been proven in all the recruitments, and that termination of services cannot be based only on an ongoing criminal proceeding.

The appointment of the teachers, who were recruited in 2016 through the Teachers' Eligibility Test (TET) panel of 2014 by the West Bengal Board of Primary Education, was challenged by a group of unsuccessful candidates who alleged recruitment fraud.

The termination of employment after nine years would have a huge impact on the primary teachers and their families, and innocent teachers would also "suffer great ignominy and stigma", the court said.

The division bench said that the single bench of Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay in the judgment of May 12, 2023, had gone beyond the pleadings and cancelled the appointments made upon a purported finding that no aptitude test was held.

The division bench said it is true that courts should emphasise fairness, transparency, and accountability in public service and will support wholesale cancellation of examinations if systemic irregularities undermine the process.

"However, the court is not expected to indulge in roving enquiry to rule out all possible explanations and alternative scenarios justifying such irregularities," the bench added.

"There is a difference between a proven case of mass cheating in a board examination and an unproven imputed charge of corruption... When services are terminated on the ground that the incumbent aided and abetted corruption, the court must satisfy itself that the condition for this exists," the court observed.

'Ruled what I believed to be correct'

Former Calcutta HC judge and current BJP MP Abhijit Gangopadhyay on Wednesday said he had "nothing to comment" on the division bench's decision to overturn his 2023 order cancelling appointments of 32,000 primary school teachers, but stated that he had passed the judgment as he believed was correct.

Undertrial not produced on 55 dates: SC raps Maha Police

NEW DELHI, PTI: Deprecating the Maharashtra Police's approach of not producing an undertrial prisoner before the trial court on 55 of the 85 dates, the Supreme Court has ordered a probe by the state's director general of prisons and asked him to submit a report.

A bench of Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Prashant Kumar Mishra granted bail to Shashi alias Shahi Chikna Vivekanand Jurmani, an accused in an attempt-to-murder case, but took serious note of the fact that he was not produced before the court 55 times out of the 85 dates given by it.

Advocate Sana Raees Khan, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that the role attributed to her client is that of stabbing the deceased in the FIR filed by the informant, who claims to be an eyewitness.

"However, the statement of the victim who died after two months is that the petitioner assaulted the deceased with kicks and blows. Such a contradiction belies the allegation. The postmortem report shows that the deceased died due to surgical wounds. Hence, the role attributed to the petitioner does not correspond to the injuries as per the report," she submitted.

The court posted the matter to February 3 next year.

Bihar fallout? 'Minority' disappears from Akhilesh Yadav's PDA

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

In what can be viewed as an attempt to redraw electoral strategy in Uttar Pradesh following I.N.D.I.A bloc's dismal performance in Bihar assembly polls and shun his party's 'pro-Muslim' image, Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav appears to have replaced 'A', which stood for 'alpasankhyak' (Muslims) in his much touted PDA (Pichda, dalit, alpsankhyak) slogan with 'aadhi abadi' (women).

An indication to this effect came to light on Wednesday when Akhilesh posted a picture on his social media handle showing some of his party's women MPs, including Dimple Yadav, Priya Saroj, Ikra Hasan and Krishna Devi, sharing a lighter moment outside the Parliament.

In the post accompanying the picture, he wrote, "Responsible SP representatives waving the PDA flag in Parliament. The development of women's power will not happen through mere words, but by giving them proper representation. Our promise is to ensure the respect and prosperity of every woman who constitutes "half the population" of the PDA.

Samajwadi Party President and MP Akhilesh Yadav

In Akhilesh's PDA, the 'A' always stood for 'Alpsankhyak' (Muslims), who were considered to be part of the core vote bank of the SP along with the Yadavs.

Not surprised

Political analysts are not surprised by the change in strategy. "It seems to be an attempt to get rid of his party's pro-Muslim image ahead of the 2027 assembly polls in the state," said a Lucknow-based political analyst.

Sources in the SP said the party has realised that it cannot win Utta Pradesh only with the support of the Yadavs and Muslims.

"The Bihar results showed that the Muslim votes were divided," said an SP leader.

Earlier also when Prime Minister Narendra Modi had hoisted the 'Dharma Dhwaja' (flag) on the spire of the Ram Temple on November 25, Akhilesh had shared a post on his social media handle stating that he would visit the Ram Temple.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

The human cost of SIR must not be overlooked

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls being undertaken in nine states and three union territories has created distress and chaos, and put immense pressure on ground level officials. The short deadlines and the workload have driven some booth level officers (BLOs) to suicide. Many others are facing physical and mental breakdown. These instances have been reported from everywhere. The BLOs are being pushed to the brink by their seniors, and their work is under close scrutiny by political parties and others. After the matter was raised in the Supreme Court, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has extended the SIR schedule by a week, but that may not be enough to ease the tensions, and make it a normal exercise that does not punish the officials, and does justice to the people. The Supreme Court has now recommended further extension of the schedule in Kerala, where there is double pressure on officials and others because of the ongoing local body election process. It termed the state government's request for extension as 'just and fair'.

The SIR, first held in Bihar before the elections there, was a hurried and badly done job. The nationwide exercise, which was rolled out a month ago, has also seen the same problems, and in addition, the immense pressure on the BLOs, which, for some reason, was not reported on such a scale. The exercise covers over 50 crore people, and it was clear from the outset that three months are not enough to complete the process, which includes the distribution of enumeration forms, publication of draft rolls, and the release of the final voter lists. The last such revision held in 2003-2004 had taken about two years to conclude, and there were no serious complaints about the deadlines, methods, and intent of the ECI.

Despite mounting distress, the ECI insists that complaints about the SIR are politically motivated

The ECI has denied any inconvenience or difficulties in the conduct of the SIR and has said all complaints about it are politically motivated. Political parties, which have made the complaints, have charged that the exercise itself is politically motivated. The ECI has cited the example of Bihar, where it says the exercise was done well. But the widely held view is that it was done badly in Bihar. Many genuine voters were allegedly excluded. One stated aim was the identification of foreign nationals on the voters' list. But not many Bangladeshis were found, and most foreigners on the list were Nepalis. Cleansing of electoral rolls is essential for free and fair elections, but it should not be done in a shoddy manner. The ECI has lost much of its credibility, and it will do more damage to itself if it persists with the arbitrary and uncaring way the exercise is being undertaken.

Progress cannot mean ecological amnesia

The Karnataka High Court's restraint on further tree-felling in Bengaluru University's Jnanabharathi campus is a timely intervention in a controversy triggered by the proposed PM-USHA and other projects under which permission was sought to cut or translocate hundreds of trees to build new academic blocks. Acting on a PIL filed by Swayam Jagruti Trust and social activist Parvathi Sriram, the court prohibited the cutting of any more trees until the next hearing on December 9, amid accusations that felling continued even after the earlier interim stay. When the Jnanabharathi campus, spread across over 1,100 acres, was established in 1973 under Vice-Chancellor H Narasimhaiah as the postgraduate centre of Bangalore University, it was envisioned as a space for higher learning — quiet, green, and intellectually stimulating. However, that vision has steadily eroded. The campus has transformed into an 'education hub', hosting a growing number of institutions, each demanding its own land. While expanding access to education is important, the fact that this is one of Bengaluru's last major lung spaces has been consistently overlooked. There is no need to squeeze every new educational project into Bengaluru when neighbouring districts and the rest of Karnataka offer ample land at far less ecological strain. The capital need not be the only address for academic ambition.

Jnanabharathi must be safeguarded — now, and for generations to come

While encroachments have further eaten into the campus, recently, there was even a proposal by the state government to build a skydeck on 25 acres, abandoned only after public outrage. This unplanned expansion has come at a high ecological cost. Jnanabharathi is home to over 300 species of trees, rich birdlife, and several designated ecological zones. Its Bio-Park, part of an old forest, covers around 650 acres and functions as a critical carbon sink and groundwater recharge system. Environmentalists estimate that it replenishes billions of litres of groundwater every monsoon and absorbs pollution worth several thousand crores in ecological value. Once destroyed, such an ecosystem cannot be recreated.

Jnanabharathi must retain its original purpose: a dedicated post-graduate campus and a centre for knowledge. Equally important, the State must act on Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre's recommendation and grant Jnanabharathi permanent legal protection as a biodiversity heritage site. A specific law on the lines of the Karnataka Government Parks (Preservation) Act is urgently needed to permanently protect it from fragmentation, encroachment, and alienation of land for other purposes. Jnanabharathi should not become yet another lesson of a city that destroyed its natural heritage in the name of progress. It must be safeguarded — now, and for generations to come.

LABOUR CODES

Reforms begin on a negative note

Trade unions feel excluded, raising fears of unrest similar to the farm law protests

JAGDISH RATTANANI

It has long been argued that India's labour laws hold back business, particularly the manufacturing sector, from roaring into action and joining the India growth story. Now, India's 29 central labour laws have been consolidated into four labour codes, notified on November 21 in what the government has called a "landmark move" that "heralds transformational change" and "lays the foundations of a future-ready workforce". The operationalisation has been welcomed by many observers as one of the biggest steps in India's journey of reforms. There is little doubt that labour laws, and indeed several other laws, practices, and traditions, in this country are outdated, many flowing from the British Raj, and deserve to be revisited.

So, in general, a review of what is being presented, and even denigrated as the long litany of 29 laws, should be a welcome step, but only if such a giant change is crafted with at least some consensus so that it can carry everyone along, particularly the trade unions.

This is the first hurdle before the labour codes as they are put into effect, given that trade unions are precisely the stakeholders who have not felt included in what will impact them the most. This puts the much-acclaimed reforms in the league of the infamous farm laws that were similarly pushed through, only to be met with widespread unrest, and were subsequently withdrawn.

There is some commonality between the farm laws and the labour codes: Both were passed by Parliament in September 2020, both were passed in the teeth of vehement opposition, and both were passed without much debate, given the significance of the change that was being brought.

Those days, the government still believed that it would ride roughshod, but was subsequently surprised at the vehemence of protest from the farmers, so that the farm laws went, but the labour codes got moved effectively to cold storage — only to be revived now.

Labour unions are weaker at this stage; so while on road agitations may not take off that easily, there is little doubt that the new effort opens on a negative note.

None of this is to argue that the labour laws do not deserve to see important changes, just as the argument was in the case of the farm laws. The problem in the Indian context is not about the legal codes, but about the on-ground working conditions that remain markedly at odds with what is professed from the corridors of power and from the boardrooms of owners and directors. When this market reality meets a government that has not built capital with the workers and is further seen as working in favour of business lobbies,

then, in effect, trust disappears, and the government has hurt itself and the 'reforms' by pushing through measures that will trigger fierce resistance.

While the direction of the labour laws is toward formalisation of the workforce, many deficiencies lie even in the formal sector, with the gap between what is claimed and what is practiced remaining high. Matters are, of course, dismal in many areas. To offer a recent example, the report *Crushed 2025*, the seventh on worker safety in the Indian automotive manufacturing sector by 'Safe in India', an independent non-profit, noted this year that thousands of workers continue to lose their fingers (crush injuries) in the automotive sector supply chain, and 76% workers reported working more than 60 hours a week. This is like the Foxconn problem of Apple—can large brands and claimed leaders in safety and sustainability practices, as many car manufacturer leaders are, turn a blind eye when their suppliers violate laws?

There are enough laws on the statute to check this, but why have they not worked? If they did not, how and why will the new laws work, particularly when the direction is toward making the laws more industry-friendly, and making room for fines and decriminalising offences?

Note that the very day three of the four labour codes were passed by the Lok Sabha on September 22, 2020, was also the day the government reported that more than 1.06 crore migrant workers, including those who travelled on foot during the lockdown, returned to their home-state when the lockdown hit hard. This added formal numbers to the shameful accounts of workers walking back miles to the safety of their villages, penniless, hungry, after they were abandoned by the contractors and establishments that had employed them.

As the lockdown was lifted, in what should stand as the second most shameful act, industry associations met the labour minister to ask for protections of the labour laws to be lifted so that business could restart! All of this is recent recorded history, around the time the labour codes were born by working in association with businesses. If actions speak, then we can see that at the root of the problem is a certain disregard for the labour force, which is anyway prone to exploitative practices given that Indian workers are less educated, less aware, less skilled, less supported, and so less productive, and are often desperate for a job, any job, to make ends meet.

Productivity in India is low not merely because Indian workers are less productive, but because the investments required to make them more productive are often weak or non-existent. Further, the business chain operates with an approach that sees labour as expendable, unable to stand up in a lax regulatory system where labour law violations are easy to get away with.

Indian business sectors will move to the next orbit when they begin to see and treat labour as an asset, invest in their growth and well-being, and violators of labour laws are made to pay dearly for crossing red lines. The new labour codes may not take us there.

(The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Life lessons on wings

A tiny visitor to our balcony offered timeless wisdom on partnership

K S VENKATACHALAM

American writer and futurist Alvin Toffler once observed that "the illiterate of the future is not those who cannot read or write, but those unable to learn, unlearn, and relearn. Life, indeed, is a continuous journey of learning." In my journey spanning over 70 years, the process of learning has never stopped—not only with people, but also with animals and birds. I would like to share a lesson I learned from a tiny visitor to our balcony, which offered profound wisdom to us.

Our balcony, alive with hibiscus, petunias, gerberas, roses, and jasmine, often hosts sunbirds, finches, and butterflies. One morning, however, a new presence appeared, a couple of small brown birds with speckled plumage, circling the *parijata* (coral jasmine) plant. A quick check on Google Lens identified it as the spotted munia (Lonchura punctulata), a sparrow-sized bird native to tropical Asia. What followed was a remarkable story of resilience and partnership.

The pair began by cautiously surveying the plant and then embarked on nest-building with flawless coordination. Day after day, they gathered dried grass, reeds, and fibres—often from our hibiscus. Every task was shared, every effort purposeful. Their creation was extraordinary: a rounded, woven nest with a discreet entrance, rugged outside yet softened within by green blades and petals.

Three weeks later, the nest was complete and four delicate white eggs appeared. True to their egalitarian nature, both parents took turns incubating and later feeding the hatchlings. Their rhythm was tireless, instinctive, and deeply moving. We watched them make endless trips, beaks filled with seeds and insects, nourishing their young in the leafy cradle.

One afternoon, with the parents away, I gently lifted a leaf. Inside, three tiny beaks stretched skyward, fragile yet fiercely alive. Two weeks later, the nest stood empty—the fledglings had flown. What remained was not just an abandoned nest, but the imprint of values embodied in their daily rituals.

Their seamless cooperation reminded us that shared responsibility is nature's norm—no complaints, no ego, only commitment. Their resilience was equally humbling; when parts of the nest fell or blew away, they rebuilt without hesitation. Most striking was their partnership: two equals, side by side, sharing every task.

In our own lives, often tangled in imbalance and noise, these little birds offer a gentle reminder: respect your partner, carry your share, and recognise that even the smallest wings can lift the heaviest truth.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

India must prioritise its children's wellbeing

Apropos 'Urgent action needed on child poverty' (Dec 3), the State of the World's Children 2025 report is a stark reminder that India's progress loses meaning if its children remain deprived. Despite a commendable fall in overall multidimensional poverty, millions of children still lack basic nutrition, healthcare, education, safe housing, and sanitation. This neglect is alarming, especially when four out of five children face at least one extreme climate hazard each year. If we fail to protect and nurture our youngest citizens, the promise of our demographic dividend will fade into a demographic burden. Shrinking budgetary focus on child welfare only deepens the crisis. Policies exist, but ineffective implementation weakens their impact. India must prioritise children as a distinct category requiring urgent, targeted action. Unicef's five-point framework offers a clear path—we must treat it not as an observation, but as a call to act.
K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

Protect, don't restrict

The Sanchar Saathi debate raises a worrying point: India must not drift toward a system where citizens are told what apps they must keep on their phones, as seen in more controlling states like North Korea. Even well-intended tools lose credibility when presented as mandatory. People deserve transparency, independent audits, and the freedom to uninstall anything they do not trust. Security works only when citizens feel respected, not instructed. Digital governance must protect rights, not restrict them.
Armaan Ahmad, Bengaluru

Handle AI with care

Apropos 'Raising children in the AI age' (Dec 3), children exposed to AI early in their development risk losing their ability to think creatively and work through problem-solving. While AI certainly has its benefits, it should not replace curiosity and the joy of discovery or create dependency on instant solutions. We must ensure technology builds creativity instead of diminishing it.
Methila Kumar Bhardwaj, Bengaluru

System needs correction

Apropos 'Fast-track courts may not be the cure' (Dec 2), fast-track courts can reduce delays but cannot solve the systemic issues crippling India's justice system. Strengthening investigation, increasing judicial capacity, and ensuring accountability are equally essential.
Niharika Chatterjee, Bengaluru

Educate them better

Apropos 'Cosmetic fixes will not help school education' (Dec 2), the Karnataka government's decision to incentivise government school teachers is a step towards improving the state's SSLC results. However, these efforts shouldn't be reduced to just cameras, grace marks, and tinkering with pass percentages but should also focus on truly educating students to become better citizens. This will only be possible by ensuring every student has access to qualified and permanent teachers.
Adhithya M K, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

We (Hindus) are being finished. We are being obstructed from practising our religion...Some people say religion is personal... My message is: religion is personal, and protecting it is also your personal responsibility...
Suvendu Adhikari, WB LoP and BJP leader

Religious ideas, supposedly private matters between man and god, are in practice always political ideas.
Christopher Hitchens

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

A diplomatic stress test for India

Caught between Washington's tariffs and Moscow's embrace, New Delhi seeks room to manoeuvre

PARUL CHANDRA

The 23rd India-Russia annual summit on December 5 will put to the test not just New Delhi's stated policy of strategic autonomy, but also its diplomatic skills, seeking as it is to balance its ties with Moscow and Washington as they face-off over the Ukraine war.

New Delhi is signalling the importance of its long-standing robust ties with Moscow by designating Russian President Vladimir Putin's trip to New Delhi, the first since Ukraine's invasion, as a 'State Visit'. This is noteworthy, especially at a time when its ties with Washington are particularly frayed.

Ahead of the summit, India has asserted that it wants to strengthen the 'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership' with Russia. Even so, India is likely to tread carefully, at least for public consumption, lest it raise the hackles of the United States and its Western allies arrayed against Russia. Putin, on the other hand, will be looking to see some big-ticket gains from his India visit to convey to the West that he has a strong ally in India.

To be sure, India would not like to jeopardise the trade deal it's trying to work out with the US, even though it would not like to be seen as completely capitulating to the Donald Trump administration's bullying. Neither would it want to alienate European countries as it heads into an India-EU summit next month where the two sides are hoping to finalise an FTA.

India has been caught in the crosshairs of heightened US-Russia tensions even as its relations with the Trump administration have nose-dived sharply due to Washington imposing 50% tariffs on imports from India, including a 25% penalty for the purchase of Russian oil.

There was further arm-twisting by the Trump administration after it announced restrictive sanctions on its Russian crude purchase, forcing India to curtail its crude imports. This is a huge setback for India as it had turned to Russian crude, offered at discounted rates, to bolster its energy security.

It is amid this backdrop that the India-Russia summit assumes tremendous significance. India knows well the benefits of a close engagement with 'time-tested partner' Russia. The two sides acknowledge a 'strategic convergence' of interests, with energy and defence being among the key pillars of bilateral ties.

Over the last three years, India became a leading buyer of Russian crude, citing 'strategic autonomy' and 'national interest' to do so even as Western nations shunned Russia. Undoubtedly, discussions on how to navigate the energy trade will figure prominently during the Modi-Putin meet.

Russia would be keen that India continue with its oil purchases using alternative methods to continue with its imports. It is, however, doubtful that New Delhi would be willing to go out on a limb to continue buying Russian oil, though expanding civil nuclear co-operation will certainly be on the table.

While a curtailment of Russian crude purchases by India may be a setback for both, their energy partnership will continue apace. It's noteworthy that India has investments in Russia's oil and gas sector. Likewise, Russia too has investments in India's oil, gas, and petrochemicals sector.

The already expansive defence partnership, the cornerstone in bilateral co-operation, too is expected to receive a further impetus at the summit. Here again, India has faced pressure from the US over the years to buy more defence equipment from it rather than Russia. Russia remains the largest arms supplier to India, though the latter has been increasingly turning to the US, France, and Israel for military hardware and software.

India's plan to acquire more S-400 air defence systems, as well as replenish stocks of its surface-to-air missiles that were used during Operation Sindoor, will also be on the table during the summit. New Delhi is also keen Moscow sticks to its promise of delivering by November 2026 the remaining two of the five S-400 squadrons contracted earlier, which have been hugely delayed due to the Ukraine war.

New Delhi will also be hoping to get a sense of Moscow's views on the 28-point peace plan proposed by Trump to end the Ukraine conflict. For New Delhi, an end to the conflict would also mean that crude supplies from Russia can continue unhampered.

India, of course, is deeply concerned about the fast-expanding strategic ties between Russia and China. Having faced the brunt of China's territorial aggression, the summit offers India the opportunity to make certain the Moscow-Beijing clinch does not adversely impact its own security interests.

Strategic autonomy in the face of major diplomatic challenges can be an extremely difficult ballgame. India needs to play its cards well, and ensure its standing on its own rights on the world stage.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

Clash of personalities splinters NDA's prospects in Tamil Nadu

DATELINE Chennai

E T B SIVAPRIYAN

Since reviving ties with the BJP in April, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami has been asserting that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will grow stronger with the induction of more political parties to challenge the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance (SPA) in the 2026 Assembly polls.

Eight months have passed, but the NDA has not seen any new constituents enter its fold. It also faces the daunting task of building synergy between cadre and functionaries of the AIADMK and the BJP, the two major parties.

In the meantime, the AMMK led by T T V Dhinakaran and former chief minister O Panneerselvam have quit the NDA. The two leaders, who have considerable influence among the Mukulathor community across Tamil Nadu's central and southern regions, pushed the AIADMK to the third slot in many constituencies in the 2024 general elections.

The PMK, which is hit by internal squabbling, and a few smaller parties remain guarded about their next moves.

The DMDK, led by late Vijayakanth's wife Premalatha, the only party which allied with the AIADMK in the 2024 polls, is also dithering on joining the NDA by maintaining that a decision on alliance will be taken in January 2026. It is upset that Palaniswami overlooked the party by not allotting a Rajya Sabha seat that was earlier 'promised'.

The BJP also faces criticism for ceding 'too much space' to the AIADMK and for not asserting itself more strongly ahead of the polls, amid rumours that its popular face and former state unit chief, K Annamalai, is being sidelined to maintain harmony within the alliance.

As the NDA struggles to find cohesion, DMK president and Chief Minister M K Stalin, on Wednesday, officially launched election work with a seat-sharing meeting with the Congress. The DMK has been projecting unity within the SPA, with Stalin frequently sharing the stage with alliance leaders. In contrast, the AIADMK and BJP have rarely organised joint meetings or activities over the past eight months, raising doubts about the alliance's strength.

The NDA made a strategic mistake by inviting Vijay's TVK into the alliance to prevent a multi-way split of anti-DMK votes — a move widely seen as an admission that it could not defeat the DMK without Vijay's support. As expected, TVK rejected the offer, saying it would ally only with those who accept Vijay as their chief ministerial candidate.

Palaniswami's hope that Vijay would abandon his independent stance and join the AIADMK after the Karur stampede, which claimed 41 lives, also faltered. His claim that the first step toward an alliance had begun, pointing to TVK flags at his rally, was firmly rejected by Vijay's camp, which insisted on its intent to contest the 2026 elections independently.

Despite several attempts by the BJP, Palaniswami stands firm in not taking back expelled leaders — V K Sasikala, TTV, and OPS — into the party. He also stands accused of not being 'accommodative', unable to stitch a strong alliance despite the BJP being on his side, and continuing to expel seniors, the latest being K A Sengottaiyan, who joined the TVK.

Not just OPS and TTV, even the PMK and the DMDK are said to be exploring the possibility of an alliance with the TVK. If such an alliance takes shape, the NDA could be in for a tough challenge, especially in northern and southern Tamil Nadu. The BJP has now invited OPS to New Delhi for talks to pacify him.

Political analyst Maalan Narayanan told *DH* that TTV and OPS see the 2026 polls as an opportunity to retaliate against Palaniswami for their expulsion from the party.

"It is merely a clash of personalities, not ideologies, that is preventing them from coming together for an alliance," Narayanan said, adding that TTV knows that, though his party cannot win, it can spoil the NDA's chances in many constituencies, just as it did in 2021.

"On the other hand, Palaniswami does not want Sasikala and TTV back as he feels their presence in the party would undermine his authority in the long run, especially in the event of a defeat in the 2026 polls. He wants to save his position and believes he can sell hopes now," Narayanan said.

Senior journalist R Bhagwan Singh said Palaniswami should also understand that though Vijay might cut into minority votes — a key support base of the DMK — he is persistent in his attacks against the DMK.

"He is trying to take AIADMK's place as the prime challenger to the DMK. This is where Palaniswami has to get off his high horse and make concessions. The fact that the BJP is now appealing to Dhinakaran not to join TVK is, in fact, a pathetic political low for the NDA," he added.

Narayanan said that while the BJP was able to accept Palaniswami's leadership after arriving at a compromise by removing Annamalai as state unit chief, smaller parties are unwilling to join the AIADMK.

"Even the PMK's influence among Vanniyars is waning. The fact also remains that EPS never took any serious efforts to pacify his opponents, including TTV. He has not made any effort to include members from Vijay's party," he said.

The DMK is also making efforts to weaken the NDA by keeping personal rivalries alive, further complicating the Opposition landscape ahead of 2026, Narayanan concluded. **DHNS**

As political repression persists, Iran's youth are carving out pockets of joy and freedom, turning celebration itself into a form of resistance

FARNAZ FASSIHI AND SANAM MAHOOZI

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Iran's youth dance through the barriers

Thousands of young men and women, hair uncovered and dressed in jeans and short-sleeve tops, jumped up and down, dancing and singing at a packed outdoor pop concert. In another part of town, young people bobbed to the beat of a hard rock street band. And scores of people traversed the city to experience Design Week, a festival of gigantic colourful art installations, light shows and live music in multiple locations.

This is not New York or Berlin. It's Tehran, the capital of Iran, where young people in recent months have been leading a social renaissance. Last month, a five-day jazz festival turned cafés and art galleries into performance spaces.

It is a stark contrast to just five years ago, when women could be beaten and dragged into police vans for showing a few strands of hair, security forces raided homes to break up house parties, and dancing was banned in public.

"The society is changing at a very fast speed, almost like a shedding of skin. Aside from the openings we see in social space, we have a fearless young generation that is breaking taboos," Donya Amiri, a 33-year-old fashion critic and designer in Tehran, said in an interview. "The young generation wants its basic freedoms, and it's getting them through sheer perseverance."

Scores of videos shared on social media, and interviews conducted with more than two dozen Iranians — among them artists, designers, musicians, entrepreneurs, university students, as well as sociologists and political analysts — depict a country in the throes of grassroots change.

Political dissent is still not tolerated, executions and death sentences are frequent, and security agents in early November arrested at least four scholars, economists and writers who had been critical of the system. But the government of President Masoud Pezeshkian, a cardiac surgeon who campaigned on granting more social freedoms, seems unwilling or unable to confront the tide of change and is perhaps wary of crackdowns backfiring and inciting unrest.

The government is already dealing with crisis upon crisis, including a dire economy, recovery from war with Israel, and an acute shortage of water and energy resources. Dancing lifts the gloom.

The festivities are not limited just to Tehran. Concerts and festivals are being staged across the country, in cities big and small, attracting enormous crowds. In Yazd, a religious, conservative city, a sing-along concert was held of pop songs from the pre-revolution era once banned. The city of Kerman hosted a desert marathon in October where men and women ran alongside one another; morning yoga, and group exercise has become a staple at many parks; street musicians, notably women singing solo, are common sights; hip-hop dancers have appeared in Shiraz and other places; and impromptu dance parties at cafés and malls with DJs are a growing trend.

"We need to feel happiness and joy," said Parnia, a beauty specialist in an interview from Tehran, asking her last name not be published for fear of retribution. "I go to these concerts to listen to music—when I'm there, I don't think of war or conflict, I am in the moment, enjoying the special night."

In a desert near Isfahan, tour operators organise rave parties dancing around gigantic statutes and fire pits in the style of the Burning Man festival in Nevada. Tehran's Grand Bazaar, known as a bastion of tradition, held a fashion show with women models sashaying down a runway draped in fur coats and cashmere shawls. Some restaurants in Tehran quietly serve wine and mix a shot of vodka in cocktail orders.

Musical theatre, a thing seldom seen in Iran because of restrictions on women singing and dancing, has also come to Tehran. Broadway-style renditions of the Oliver Twist and Robin Hood stories have played to sold-out audiences nightly, according to social media posts.

It is grassroots change from a new generation of Iranians who, connected to the outside world through social media and less fearful of arrest, are testing boundaries and reclaiming public spaces from the Islamic government, long known for its stifling restrictions on mixed gender gatherings, dancing, singing, alcohol and Western-style events. The government itself has jumped on the bandwagon of the trend, if a little tentatively.

In September, it organised a series of free outdoor music events across the country called happiness concerts, inviting top singers and bands to perform for the public to cement the nationalism forged as the country responded to the 12-day war with Israel in June. The move was a first of its kind: Iran's government typically holds its celebratory events at mosques with public prayer services, not pop concerts.

"Holding concerts with millions of people participating strengthens our unity," Fatemeh Mohajerani, the spokesperson for the government, said to local media in September. She added that events like street concerts would help "increase collective happiness."

The move generated praise and criticism, with some saying the government was doing something enjoyable for a change and others calling it duplicitous and aimed at distracting people from the country's many problems. Nonetheless, the concerts were a huge hit, with more than one million people attending, according to local news media, and inadvertently became a showcase of the widening gap between the Islamic rulers and a new generation.

Bahman Babazadeh, 42, a music journalist and a concert promoter, said in a telephone interview from Tehran that the war had changed how concerts could be conducted in Iran. The government was easing restrictions, such as overseeing the choice of lyrics and songs, banning dancing, and requiring women to wear the *hijab*. On average, Babazadeh said, at least four concerts are held each night in major cities like Tehran, Shiraz and Isfahan, drawing thousands of attendees.

The departure from Islamic rules has irked conservatives who have called for the judiciary and security forces to act, with a warning that at this pace the Islamic Revolution will soon disappear. In some instances, the authorities have moved to shut down an event, like at the shop that hosted the fashion show in the bazaar, cancel a concert or fine an organiser, but it largely amounts to a game of Whac-a-Mole.

Iranian news media reported last week that the Ministry of Intelligence had provided the supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, with a confidential report on the departure from Islamic social rules and the decline in women wearing the *hijab*, and that Khamenei had ordered the government to bring the youth and women back in line.

But Elias Hazrati, the head of communications for Pezeshkian, the president, told Iranian news media that while the government was "sensitive" about this issue it did not plan to "use the failed methods of the past," and that its views on hijab were "based on logic."

"Gen Z is indifferent to power, and it has reached a collective state of disrespect," said Abdolreza Davari, who was a senior adviser to former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, in a thread on social media about the phenomena. He added that Gen Z Iranians "do not tolerate imposed interference in their daily life," and "from here, Iran's future will change."

Analysts say that the joy and fun on display across Iran does not mean that the young generation is indifferent to the economic problems afflicting the country or the sporadic attempts by the Islamic regime to crack down. "Iranian society has been able to create some cracks in the power structure by these forms of resistance and force the regime to give in to some of the events," said Mojtaba Najafi, a political analyst based in France, who wrote a doctoral thesis on political social movements in Iran. **NYT**

The renaissance of inclusion: From pity to dignity

RAUNAQ JAISWAL

In the annals of Indian constitutionalism, there are judgments that scream their significance from the headlines, and there are those that quietly, almost imperceptibly, redraw the canvas of our rights.

The Supreme Court's recent decision in *Jane Kaushik v. Union of India* belongs to the latter category. While formally an adjudication on transgender rights, its perhaps more revolutionary contribution may also lie in heralding the next frontier of disability law. It signals a decisive shift from formal guarantees to a thick, structural jurisprudence of "reasonable accommodation". This is because for decades, disability law in India has been trapped within the confines of the 'Medical Model', viewing disability as a tragedy to be cured by state benevolence.

Jane Kaushik attempts to dismantle this architecture by explicitly borrowing from the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, and transplanting the logic of reasonable accommodation into the transgender context. Now, the Court has established that accommodation is not an act of executive kindness. It is a positive obligation flowing directly from Articles 14, 16, and 21 of the Constitution.

If read as a doctrinal charter rather than a case confined to its facts, *Jane Kaushik* heralds a kind of constitutional renaissance of its kind.

By framing accommodation as a constitutional necessity, the Court has validated the shift toward a 'Human Rights Model' of disability, where the focus is not on 'fixing' the individual but on fixing the broken environment that excludes them. Perhaps the most methodologically significant aspect of the judgment is its frontal engagement with 'omissive discrimination'. Here, the Court characterised legislative and administrative inaction, such as the failure to notify rules, create grievance cells, or appoint liaison officers—as a form of discrimination itself.

This aspect resonates deeply, as violence against the disabled in the Global South is often found in the silence of the state and the invisibility of support structures.

For lawyers, this opens new avenues to challenge the 'design silence' of welfare schemes where benefits exist on paper but lack operational pathways. Think of the lack of accessibility in most railway stations and the travel concessions given. How can a person, say who uses a wheelchair, use the concession if the architecture is inaccessible?

Jane Kaushik's ruling also validates the argument that institutional non-action, which produces patterns of exclusion, is a constitutional wrong as potent as any overt discriminatory order. It also highlights an insistence that equality duties extend to private 'establishments' disrupts the traditional public/private divide. It acknowledges that exclusion is just as brutal whether it occurs in a government office or on a private digital platform. By framing private power as a central object of disability law, the Court has signalled that the constitutional project of inclusion must permeate every layer of society.

Resultantly, this approach offers a transition from episodic litigation to institutional design. This is the essence of the Constitutional Renaissance in disability rights: a movement where the promise of reasonable accommodation ceases to be a 'dead letter' or a charitable gesture and becomes the living, breathing grammar of everyday justice. It is a call to build a legal culture that does not merely tolerate difference but regards it as an essential, dignified thread in the tapestry of our republic.

As we observe World Disability Day, *Jane Kaushik*'s ruling stands as a constitutional reminder that the struggle for inclusion is not merely about rights asserted but about structures redesigned and cultures transformed.

A jurisprudence of dignity demands that we confront the forms of exclusion that hide behind inertia, silence, or procedural apathy. It calls on institutions to treat accommodation not as a favour extended but as a duty owed. This day urges us to carry that mandate forward, to build systems that are accountable, responsive, and genuinely accessible, and to cultivate a culture where disabled persons are not peripheral but central to our democratic and academic life.

If the Court has opened the door to a new constitutional imagination, it falls upon us to walk through it with commitment, humility, and resolve.

(The writer teaches law at the Jindal Global Law School, OP Jindal Global University)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: DECEMBER 1975

Laos now People's Republic

London, December 3
The 700-year-old monarchy in Laos has been abolished, the 19-month-old coalition Government dissolved and the Lao People's Democratic Republic established, Vientiane Radio said today. The broadcast said King Savang Vatthana had abdicated following a two-day Congress of People's Representatives which closed in Vientiane yesterday. "It was unanimously decided to abolish the monarchy, establish a People's Republic and appoint a President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic," the radio said.

25 YEARS AGO: DECEMBER 2000

George sore over BSF deployment

Bangalore, Dec 3
Defence Minister George Fernandes today expressed displeasure over his own government's move to send the Border Security Force (BSF) and NSG commandos to assist the Karnataka and Tamil Nadu Special Task Forces to nab Veerappan. Maintaining that nabbing the outlaw is a police job and Central forces like the BSF had no role in this, Mr Fernandes said, "The talk of Central forces having to come here...does not make any sense".

OASIS | ADITI PANT

When love becomes medicine

There are moments in life when words fail and the heart speaks instead, moments when pain or illness strips away the noise of the world and reveals what truly matters: the quiet, unwavering presence of those who love us most. For a child, no matter how young or grown, that presence often has the face of a parent. There is a certain kind of comfort that a mother brings that cannot be bought, taught, or replaced. There is a certain kind of reassurance that a father brings as his eyes soften when his child returns home.

I recently had to undergo an intensive surgery while my parents were staying with us. Their voice, gentle and perhaps even a bit frail, reverberated in the house, making the world feel safe again. The murmur of consolation, the rustle of a blanket being adjusted, and the patience in their touch carried its own kind of magic. In their eyes, I was still their child, needing care, no matter the years that had passed. During my convalescence, I realised that a parent's presence is medicine in itself. It might not cure illness, but it certainly heals the heart. As we grow older, life's "illnesses" take on new forms, but our parents literally and metaphorically sit beside us in the dark and wait for the morning to come.

Having re-experienced the profound benediction of my own parents' unwavering support, I resolved to weave that same gift of presence for my girls, an inheritance of solace and strength in their time of need. I want them to navigate life's challenges, knowing that no matter what, my husband and I are always there for them --a fortress of support when life's trials arise.

When the world insists on being cruel, may we sit with our parents a little longer. May we listen to their stories, even the ones we've heard before. May we thank them over and over again not just for what they've done, but for simply being there. May we look past their indiscretions and their limitations and see that their presence is not just a part of our past; it's the quiet blessing that continues to guide, lift and hold us even today, a gentle reminder that we live in a benign universe where the night always yields to dawn.

SC allows pregnant woman, her child into India on humane grounds

Directs Bengal official to provide all possible medical assistance

NEW DELHI, PTI

An undated image of Sunali Khatun. PTI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed on "humanitarian grounds" the entry of a pregnant woman and her eight-year-old son into India, months after they were pushed into Bangladesh.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi asked the West Bengal government to take care of the minor, and directed the Birbhum district chief medical officer to provide all possible medical assistance to the woman, Sunali Khatun, including free-of-cost delivery.

The bench noted the submission of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Central government, that the competent authority had agreed to allow the woman and her child into the country purely on humanitarian grounds without prejudice to rights and contentions, and that they would be kept under surveillance.

Background

The top court was hearing a plea by the Central government challenging the September 26 Calcutta High Court order by which it had set aside the Central government's decision to deport Khatun and others to Bangladesh and termed it "illegal".

The bench further said they would eventually be brought back to Delhi from where they were picked up and deported to Bangladesh.

However, senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Sanjay Hegde, appearing for the woman's father, said it would be appropriate if she and her child were brought to their home district of Birbhum in West Bengal, where her father resides.

They urged the court that there were others, including Khatun's husband, who were in Bangladesh and needed to be brought back to India

Justice Bagchi said if the woman established that she was the daughter of Bhodu Sheikh, it would be sufficient to establish her Indian citizenship. It posted the matter for hearing on December 10.

The woman's father alleged that the families, working as daily-wage earners in Delhi for over two decades, were picked up by the police on June 18 on suspicion of being Bangladeshis and pushed across the border on June 27.

Manipur militants ask Sangai Festival attendees to apologise

IMPHAL, PTI: A coalition of five proscribed groups in Manipur on Wednesday asked all individuals and organisations which participated in the recently concluded Sangai Festival to issue a public apology before December 10, calling the event a betrayal of the suffering of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The Sangai festival was held from November 21 to 30 amid protests by displaced persons demanding that they be allowed to return to their homes.

At least 260 people were killed and thousands homeless in ethnic clashes between the Meitei and Kuki communities in Manipur since May 2023.

In a joint statement, leaders of the Kangleipak Communist Party, Kanglei Yawol Kanba Lup, People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak, PREPAK (Progressive), and United National Liberation Front alleged that displaced people are struggling to survive in relief camps.

The outfits also alleged the government was not doing anything to resolve the conflict.

They said that all artists, business enterprises, professionals and stall owners who participated in the festival should issue a public apology by December 10.

Rlys rolling out OTP-based Tatkal booking at counter

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Indian Railways on Wednesday said that passengers will have to provide a one-time password (OTP) received on their mobile phones when booking Tatkal train tickets from railway reservation counters.

The Railway Ministry piloted the OTP-based Tatkal ticketing system for journeys booked at reservation counters on November 17.

It started with a few trains, and the number was eventually increased to 52.

In the next few days, this reservation system at counters will be implemented for all remaining trains, the ministry said in a statement.

Meant to curb misuse

The railways said the new system was adopted to curb misuse of the last-minute ticket-booking facility and to make it more convenient for the masses.

"Under this system, while booking a Tatkal ticket at a reservation counter, the passenger receives an OTP on the mobile number provided in the reservation form. The ticket will be confirmed only after the OTP is successfully verified," said the ministry.

In the past few months, the Railway Ministry has introduced a couple of measures meant to help passengers get fair access to ticket reservation and discourage booking agents from exploiting the system.

In July, the Railway Ministry mandated Aadhaar verification through OTP for online ticket bookings under the Tatkal system across the country.

From October 1, it permitted only Aadhaar-authenticated users to book reserved general tickets through the IRCTC website or app during the first 15 minutes after booking opens for any train.

'Hatred for beautiful girls': Haryana woman held for killing 4 children, including son

CHANDIGARH, PTI: A 32-year-old woman from Haryana allegedly murdered three girls over the past two years as she developed "hatred for them due to their beauty" and even killed her three-year-old son to avoid suspicion, police said on Wednesday.

The details of the crimes were revealed when Panipat police cracked the case of a six-year-old girl's death on Monday, where the accused woman, identified as Poonam, allegedly followed the same modus operandi—drowning the victim in water-filled tubs or tanks.

Superintendent of police Bhupender Singh said the accused appears to be a psychopath and targeted her niece in the latest incident after she had come to attend a wedding.

The three girl victims — two aged six and one nine — were related to the woman.

The six-year-old girl, Vidhi, went missing during a wedding function on Monday in Naultha village. She was later found dead by her family in a storeroom on the first floor of the house with her face down in a plastic tub filled with water, her head submerged, her feet outside. A police team investigated the crime and on Wednesday arrested Poonam, Vidhi's aunt, on charges of murder.

It is alleged that after the wedding guests had left the house, Poonam lured the girl to the room and drowned her in the tub, then bolted the door from the outside and came down, according to the police.

During questioning, the SP said the accused revealed the other murders. "She killed two kids, including her son, in Bhawar in 2023, and a girl in Sewah in August this year," he said.

She has one more child, he said. The SP said the accused told the police that she harboured hate for beautiful girls.

The woman told the police that in 2023, she had drowned her sister-in-law's nine-year-old daughter in a water tank at home in Bhawar village.

Fearing that her family might suspect her, she had killed her own 3-year-old son, Shubham, too, they alleged.

In August 2025, she allegedly drowned her cousin's six-year-old daughter in a water tank in Sewah village.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

FOR NATIONAL DOG DAY, TODAY I'M MAKING TREATS SHAPED LIKE LITTLE DOGGIE BONES FOR OUR BOOTH AT THE LOCAL FAIR!
AW, I LOVE THAT! PEOPLE WILL EAT THEM RIGHT UP!
OH, THOSE ARE JUST FOR THE DOGGIES!
FOR THEIR PEOPLE, I'M MAKING LITTLE BANANA-SHAPED COOKIES FOR NATIONAL BANANA LOVERS DAY TOMORROW
Blondie's

Hagar The Horrible

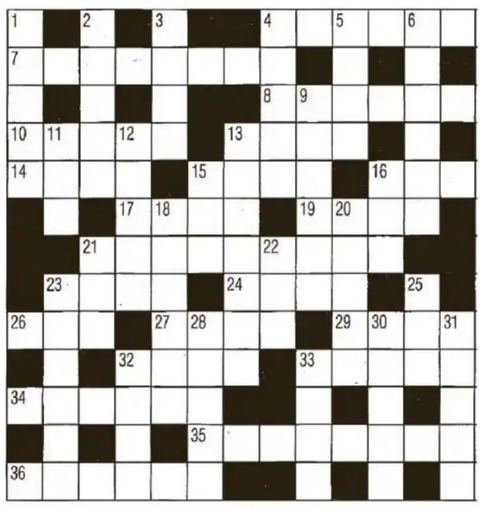
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

HOW'S THE TENNIS MATCH GOING?
"CRYBABY" BOOBIE AND HER BROTHER ARE LEADING
WHO'S HONKING THAT CAR HORN?
THAT'S "CRYBABY'S" MOTHER
EVERY TIME HER DAUGHTER HITS A GOOD SHOT, SHE HONKS THE HORN
WILL YOU CUT THAT OUT?!
YOU DON'T LIKE MY MOTHER!

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12302



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 An elastic band (6)
7 Around the end of term, do wake up the dozy creature! (8)
8 Chat with Jack – the toad! (6)
10 Bit of a simpleton, make it known (3,2)
13 Notedly free trip (4)
14 Vehicle misdirected on the M1? (4)
15 Drink for the busy worker at central Hammersmith (4)
16 Tasty? No thanks! (3)
17 Ancient goddess who emphatically exists! (4)
19 Is a slow starter where savings accounts are concerned (4)
21 Flutter by if you like, madam (9)
23 Panto actor? (4)
24 The importance of communication (4)
26 A gig for some banjo boys (3)
27 Sort of room for betting? (4)
29 An area scheme (4)
32 Amiable French associates of Kingsley (4)
33 More than a ton of rock (5)
34 Sailor said to be fond of olive oil (6)
35 Despite composure, Cleo had to get upset about nothing (4,4)
36 Take form! (6)

DOWN
1 Possibly solid figures (5)
2 What I do right, you might say (5)
3 Many admit to being depressed (4)
4 Lamp spirit? (5)
5 Charge at speed (4)
6 What happened in the uncertain seventies? (6)
9 Floating around getting a doctor properly fit (6)
11 Street of horror (3)
12 Dislike removing the piano from a platform (5)
13 Objects to Ernest's shiftiness (7)
15 Portion of rabbit (3)
16 Let's suppose Sally's lost fifty quid (3)
18 Ultimately prissy letters about a side being sexy (6)
20 Took the rest of the assorted pelts (5)
21 Could baby wear it upside down? (3)
22 Fishy food from the Faeroes? (3)
23 So more distress makes you unhappy (6)
25 Front man? (3)
28 She's relatively fetching out East (5)
30 But is he fond of money more? (5)
31 Boy resembling Winnie the Pooh? (5)
32 Type of engine much used in raising ore (4)
33 Cans of it have unusual lids (4)

ACROSS
4 Slander (6)
7 Large passenger plane (8)
8 Fruit (6)
10 Stupid (5)
13 Unlock (4)
14 Fish (4)
15 Only remaining (4)
16 Total (3)
17 Alcoholic drink (4)
19 Minute particle (4)
21 Garment (4,5)
23 Prohibition (4)
24 Lion's long hair (4)
26 Mine (3)
27 A drama (4)
29 Fingertip cover (4)
32 Intend (4)
33 Confuse (5)
34 Strain, emphasis (6)
35 Gemstones (8)
36 Dealer or merchant (6)

DOWN
1 Unit of purity of gold (5)
2 Coach (5)
3 Desire (4)
4 Lets fall (5)
5 Pastry case with a filling (4)
6 Bottle size (6)
9 Keep possession of (6)
11 Play on words (3)
12 Wooden shoe (5)
13 Rower (7)
15 Star sign (3)
16 Habitual drunkard (3)
18 Runs away to wed (6)
20 Fashion (5)
21 Favourite (3)
22 Horses eat this (3)
23 Winner (6)
25 Lubricate (3)
28 Intense beam of light (5)
30 Grown-up (5)
31 Dog lead (5)
32 Fix (4)
33 Land measure (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12301

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Stocks 7, Organise 8, Aida 10, Purser 11, Adders 14, Eel 16, Lathe 17, Real 19, N-UK-ed 21, Wires 22, Billy 23, Peep 26, Minus 28, Row 29, Unused 30, Pi-p-ers 31, Amps 32, Ing-R-ates 33, Titian.
DOWN: 1, Supper 2, Chisel 3, So(f)ar 4, Candles 5, Rivet 6, Terse 8, Area 9, Del 12, D-ad 13, Rhine 15, Cur-ly 18, Elgin 19, Nil 20, Key 21, Wise man 22, Bus 23, Pop-pet 24, Ewes (use) 25, Piston 26, Music 27, Nudge 28, R-I-M 30, Pa-st.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Tyrant 7, Abundant 8, Pomp 10, Taurus 11, Secure 14, Rag 16, Rotor 17, Dark 19, Lurid 21, Bidet 22, Fetid 23, Fate 26, Civil 28, Sag 29, Icebox 30, Biceps 31, Acid 32, Agreeing 33, Sleeve.
DOWN: 1, Tooted 2, Anorak 3, Taps 4, Inherit 5, Gamut 6, Steer 8, Purr 9, Mug 12, Cod 13, Roast 15, Audio 18, Aspic 19, Lit 20, Red 21, Beloved 22, Fib 23, Facile 24, Aged 25, Ensure 26, Cigar 27, Veers 28, Sic 30, Bags.

◆SU-DO-KU-6768◆

2					3		7	
	3		4		9			8
					6	2		
			7			8	1	5
		8				3		
1	7	3			5			
		4	2					
6			3		7		4	
	2		6					3

very hard

SOLUTION TO 6767

9	2	6	7	3	1	4	8	5
3	4	7	5	8	2	9	6	1
5	8	1	6	4	9	3	2	7
4	1	8	9	5	7	2	3	6
7	3	9	2	6	8	1	5	4
2	6	5	3	1	4	7	9	8
1	9	2	8	7	5	6	4	3
8	7	3	4	2	6	5	1	9
6	5	4	1	9	3	8	7	2

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

©2025 Mattel, SCRABBLE™ and SCRABBLE tiles, including S1 tiles, are trademarks of Mattel.

							RACK 1
M3	R1	I1	P3	T1	M3	E1	
							RACK 2
S1	J8	C3	T1	E1	I1	U1	Triple Word Score
							RACK 3
P3	S1	A1	T1	A1	U1	C3	
							RACK 4
I1	L1	A1	M3	R1	E1	E1	2nd Letter Triple

PAR SCORE 120-130
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

S1	U1	P3	R1	E1	M3	E1	RACK 1 =	83
H4	E1	M3	L1	O1	C3	K5	RACK 2 =	104
A1	N1	T1	A1	C3	I1	D2	RACK 3 =	80
C3	A1	U1	T1	I1	O1	N1	RACK 4 =	77
							JUDD'S TOTAL	344

PAR SCORE 225-235

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CEENF

SYBSO

GHNITK

LWTAEL

Here's some water for the moat.
We need more sand!
I'm going to join the kids.
What a perfect day to end the holiday weekend.
THEY WERE HAVING FUN SWIMMING AND BUILDING A SANDCASTLE. EVERYTHING WAS ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here: " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesteray's Jumbles: PLAID AUDIO SNAPPY MAYHEM
Answer: It's easy for a fictional character to be stubborn because their — MIND IS MADE UP

©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved.

HITORI-3222

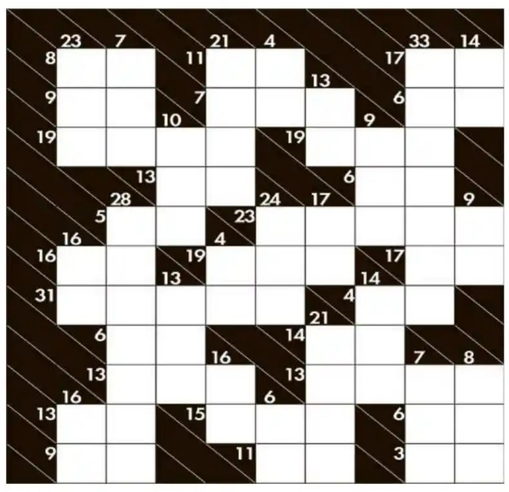
5	3	6	5	3	7	8	1
5	5	2	4	8	3	7	5
7	6	3	5	5	5	4	8
5	4	5	2	3	8	1	6
3	7	4	1	5	5	2	7
5	1	1	6	4	5	3	7
2	5	8	1	7	1	5	3
4	5	7	8	5	6	1	3

SOLUTION TO 3221

■	3	6	2	8	4	■	5
6	■	2	■	3	■	5	8
1	8	■	4	2	5	■	3
4	7	1	5	■	3	8	2
2	1	■	8	7	■	6	4
5	■	3	7	■	6	■	1
3	5	■	1	6	2	4	■
■	6	5	■	1	■	3	7

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3222



SOLUTION TO 3221

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3755

5			1					■
	■					2	■	9
		■				■		
			8		■		4	7
6			9	■	7	8		
	5		4		■	6		
	1	■				■		
8	2					5	■	
■		5			8	3		1

SOLUTION TO 3754

4	6	2	9	3	5	8	1	7
9	7	5	8	6	1	3	2	4
1	3	8	4	2	7	6	9	5
5	2	9	3	8	4	1	7	6
7	1	4	2	5	6	9	8	3
3	8	6	1	7	9	5	4	2
6	4	3	7	1	8	2	5	9
2	9	1	5	4	3	7	6	8
8	5	7	6	9	2	4	3	1

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Pan masala packets must display retail price: Centre

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre on Wednesday said all pan masala packages, irrespective of size or weight, must display the Retail Sale Price (RSP) and other mandatory declarations under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011.

The Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs said the amendment, notified through GSR 881(E), will come into force on February 1, 2026.

From that date, all manufacturers, packers and importers of pan masala must ensure full compliance, the Consumer Affairs Ministry statement said.

The amendment removes the earlier exemption that allowed small packs of 10 gm or less to avoid certain declarations.

Now, even these smaller packs must print the RSP on their labels and display all declarations required under the 2011 rules.

The previous proviso under Rule 26(a) has been withdrawn and replaced with a new proviso specific to pan masala.

By mandating retail sale price on all packages, the amendment also facilitates the implementation of RSP-based GST levy on pan masala. This is expected to enable seamless enforcement of GST Council decisions and ensure proper tax assessment and revenue collection across all pack sizes, including the smallest units.

The move strengthens consumer protection by ensuring transparent pricing information across all pack sizes, the statement said.

It is expected to prevent misleading or deceptive pricing on smaller packs and help consumers make better-informed purchasing decisions, the statement added.

Indian discovery of spiral galaxy changes baby universe perception

Defies current theories of how fast galaxies can emerge, form complex structures

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Indian astronomers have discovered a spiral galaxy with an architecture strikingly similar to the Milky Way — a cosmic pinwheel — in the baby Universe that was only around 1.5 billion years old.

The discovery of one of the most distant spiral galaxies ever observed challenges the current theories of how quickly galaxies can emerge and acquire such complex cosmic structures.

Astronomers Rashi Jain and Yogesh Wadadekar at Pune's National Centre for Radio Astrophysics used data from Nasa's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) to spot the galaxy, which has been named Alaknanda.

The galaxy is so far away that its light — a billion times fainter than what naked human eyes can see — has to travel for over 12 billion years to reach the JWST, an advanced space telescope sensitive enough to capture such faint signals.

Jain said about the name: "Just as the Alaknanda is the sister river of the Mandakini river, which is also the Hindi name for our own Milky Way galaxy, we thought it fitting to name this distant spiral galaxy after the former."

"We're seeing this galaxy as it appeared just 1.5 billion years after the Big Bang. Finding such a well-formed spiral galaxy at this early epoch is quite unexpected. It tells us that sophisticated structures were being formed in our Universe much earlier than we thought possible," said Jain.

The Universe is currently 13.8 billion years old. Alaknanda was formed when the universe was around 10% of its current age.

"It took us 15 months to analyse the extraordinary data. While 70% of the galaxies in the local universe are spiral galaxies, we have never seen one so far away," Wadadekar told *DH*.

The team found Alaknanda to be an impressive cosmic powerhouse. It contained approximately 10 billion times the mass of our Sun in stars, and was actively forming new stars about 20-30 times faster than the Milky Way's current star formation rate. It also displayed two well-defined spiral arms around a bright central bulge, spanning approximately 30,000 light-years in diameter.

Before the JWST, astronomers believed that galaxies in the early Universe were chaotic and clumpy, with stable spiral structures emerging only when the cosmos was several billion years old. The predominant theory suggested that early galaxies were "hot" and turbulent, requiring time to cool down and settle into well-formed rotation-dominated disks capable of maintaining spiral patterns.

"Alaknanda tells a different story," said Wadadekar. "This galaxy had to assemble 10 billion solar masses of stars and simultaneously form a large disk with spiral arms in just a few hundred million years. That's incredibly rapid by cosmic standards."

The study has appeared recently in the European journal *Astronomy & Astrophysics*.

COSMIC SURPRISE

- Astronomers used James Webb Space Telescope data to identify 'Alaknanda', a spiral galaxy that existed when the universe was only 1.5 billion years old
- It also displayed two well-defined spiral arms, around 30,000 light-years in diameter
- It was also found to be forming stars 20-30 times faster than our own Milky Way

Aviation regulator probes IndiGo after flight disruptions

Asks airline to submit mitigation plans

NEW DELHI, PTI

AI 2941 19:05 Delhi 18:36 Landed
6E 6058 14:50 Chennai 18:47 Delayed
6E 6938 15:55 Prayagraj 18:48 Delayed
AI 2596 18:15 Udaipur 18:48 Delayed
6E 545 18:50 Gorakhpur 18:50 Arrived
6E 6022 17:20 Delhi 18:51 Delayed
6E 2067 17:35 Calicut 19:16 Delayed
6E 6294 13:25 Kannur 20:00 Delayed

A fight schedule screen displaying several delayed flights by IndiGo airlines at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai on Wednesday. REUTERS

Aviation watchdog DGCA on Wednesday said it is investigating IndiGo flight disruptions, and has asked the airline to submit the reasons for the current situation as well as the plans to reduce flight cancellations and delays.

The country's largest airline, IndiGo, on Wednesday cancelled more than 100 flights at various airports and scores of services were delayed as it grappled with significant operational disruptions mainly due to crew shortage, and announced calibrated schedule adjustments for the next 48 hours to normalise the operations.

In a statement, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said it is currently investigating the situation and evaluating measures along with the airline, to reduce cancellations and delays, in order to minimise inconvenience being caused to passengers.

"IndiGo has been asked to report to DGCA, Headquarters, to present the facts leading to the current situation along with plans to mitigate the ongoing delays & cancellations," it said.

Citing recent operational performance information provided by IndiGo, DGCA said a total of 1,232 flights were cancelled in November, including 755 flights due to crew and FDTL (Flight Duty Time Limitations) constraints.

As many as 258 flights were cancelled due to "airport/airspace restrictions", 92 flights were cancelled due to the ATC (Air Traffic Control) system failure and 127 flights on account of other reasons, the statement said.

"A large share of cancellations arose from crew / FDTL compliance and airport/airspace / ATC-related factors, many of which lie beyond the operator's direct control," DGCA said, and mentioned that the airline's overall On Time Performance (OTP) in November was 67.7% compared to 84.1% in October.

While 16% of the delays were due to ATC, 6% were caused by "operations-crew", 3% due to airport facility issues and 8% as a result of other factors, as per the statement.

According to the regulator, it had provided further clarification to IndiGo for streamlining the implementation of the revised FDTL norms.

The corrective measures proposed were strengthening crew planning and rostering while adhering to FDTL norms, enhancing coordination with ATC and airports to manage capacity constraints and improving turnaround and disruption-management processes.

While the first phase of these FDTL norms came into force from July, the second phase, which restricted the night landing to two from six earlier, was implemented from November 1.

AIRLINE PILOTS' ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

"The situation concerning the recent flight cancellations across India allegedly attributed to pilot shortage due to new FDTL norms, raises significant questions about the airline's management, regulatory oversight by the DGCA, and market fairness

Navy showcases combat prowess off Kerala coast

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: The Indian Navy showcased its maritime prowess in Kerala on Wednesday. President Droupadi Murmu, Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Governor Rajendra Arlekar and chief of

Naval staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi were among the dignitaries.

The Navy's skills and capabilities were on display in the Shanghumugham beach in Thiruvananthapuram.

Nineteen major war vessels, including indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, one submarine, four fast intervention boats, and 32 aircraft — fighter jets, surveillance planes and helicopters — are part of the show, a top naval officer said.

Around 20 major warships, submarines, fast intervention boats and 32 aircraft, including fighter jets and helicopters, took part in the demonstration.

An anti-piracy operation by the marine commandos (MARCOS), formation flying by aircrafts, paragliding and display of the state-of-the-art frontline frigates and missile corvettes were the highlights of the show.

(With PTI inputs)

Madurai tense as TN govt defies HC's 'Deepam' order

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Tension prevailed in Madurai's Thiruparankundram on Wednesday evening after right-wing activists clashed with police after the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) department officials failed to light the Karthigai Deepam atop the hill near a dargah as per the directions of the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court.

Justice G R Swaminathan, who had on Monday ordered that the Deepam be lit at Deepathoon atop the hill, instead of the century-old practice of lighting the lamp at the Deepa Mandapam near Uchipillaiyar temple. But the HR&CE officials lit the fire at the Uchipillaiyar temple at 6 pm.

As petitioner, Rama Ravikumar, informed the court that the order has not been executed, Justice G R Swaminathan not only pulled up the DMK government for not following the court order, but also directed CISF personnel guarding the high court premises to accompany the petitioner to help light the lamp.

The judge called the act 'symbolic but necessary' to uphold the authority of the court.

"The Deepam was lit at Uchipillaiyar Temple at 6.00 pm. But there has been no lighting of the Deepam at the Deepathoon," Justice Swaminathan said. "Defying the order of this court would send a very bad signal... That would sound the death knell of democracy itself," the judge said.

Before the petitioner and CISF personnel could reach the hill, Ravikumar was accompanied by more than 10 people. Following this, the Madurai district administration imposed prohibitory orders under Section 163 of BNSS in Thiruparankundram until further orders.

As the situation escalated, top police officials rushed to the village even as the Tamil Nadu government challenged Justice Swaminathan's order before the principal bench of the Madras High Court.

Police led by Madurai Commissioner J Loganathan prevented the petitioner and CISF personnel from climbing the hill, citing the prohibitory orders.

Some activists, however, tried to climb the hill, but were stopped by police. In the melee, three policemen were injured.

In the ensuing protest, slogans were raised against the state government, terming it 'anti-Hindu'.

JUSTICE G R SWAMINATHAN
Madurai Bench of Madras HC

"The petitioners were justified in demanding that the temple management resume or restore this tradition. Even if it is not a matter of custom, asserting the title of the temple over the lower peak by lighting at the Deepathoon is imperative. By lighting the lamp at Deepathoon, the rights of the Dargah or the Muslims will not in any way be affected. On the other hand, if the lamp was not lit at Deepathoon, then there was always a possibility that the rights of the temple may be jeopardised.

Chennai battered by heavy rains for third day as Cyclone Ditwah stalls over Tamil Nadu coast

CHENNAI, DHNS: For the third straight day, Chennai and its neighbouring districts were battered with heavy rains as the remnant of Cyclone Ditwah, now weakened into a well-marked low pressure, stalled unusually close to the Tamil Nadu coast for several hours.

With the weather system having moved inland, it continued to dump rain across Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kanchipuram, and Chengalpattu on Wednesday, making life tough for motorists and office-goers. For the second consecutive day, schools and colleges in the four districts remained closed.

While rains in Chennai were expected to subside by Thursday morning, Tiruvannamalai, Vellore, Ranipet, Villupuram, Cuddalore, and Cauvery Delta will experience heavy rainfall on Thursday, weather bloggers said.

Cyclone Ditwah, which wreaked havoc in Sri Lanka, was predicted to leave a trail of destruction in Tamil Nadu as well on November 29 and 30. But the weather system began dumping huge rains across Chennai and three districts since December 1 with north Chennai bearing the maximum brunt.

Greater Chennai Corporation said the city recorded an average rainfall of 54.60 cm since the onset of the Northeast Monsoon. The average rainfall between 5.30 am on Tuesday and 5.30 am on Wednesday is 6.17 cm, with Ennore in north Chennai registering 13.53 cm rainfall in 24 hours.

Intense spells of rainfall lashed across the city at regular intervals from Monday morning and continued till Wednesday evening. People living in low-lying areas were affected even as the administration said water drained out in several areas once the rains stopped.

The GCC distributed over 6 lakh food packets on Wednesday alone to people affected by the rains even as hundreds of motor pumps have been deployed to drain rain water out.

DUAL BURDEN

NRIs face racial bias and prejudice within diaspora, reveals survey

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Around 44% of Indians living and working abroad who participated in a recent survey said they have faced unfair treatment because of their race, according to Blind, the anonymous community app for verified professionals. The survey, conducted on November 28, covered 1,087 Non-Resident Indian (NRI) professionals, a majority of whom are based in the United States.

Reports of racial discrimination were especially prevalent among employees at two top tech companies, where response rates exceeded 50%, according to survey details shared by Blind with *DH*. Among the remaining respondents, 26% acknowledged that bias exists but said it doesn't significantly affect their careers, while 30% felt the issue is exaggerated and not a real concern.

Regional identity emerged as the second most reported form of bias after race, with respondents citing distinctions between North and South Indian backgrounds as a recurring source of discrimination. The findings suggest that NRIs face a dual burden: racial bias from outside communities and prejudice within the Indian diaspora itself. Other reported forms of bias included age, gender and caste.

When asked how discrimination affected careers, 44% said it influenced performance evaluations or promotion opportunities. Another 21% reported experiencing social exclusion or subtle ostracism, while smaller groups pointed to job interviews and layoffs as areas where bias surfaced.

Despite these experiences, most respondents did not escalate or formally report the issue. Around 72% said they took no action, while 21% chose to leave their company because of discrimination.

OVERSEAS STRUGGLES

- 44% of NRIs report racial bias abroad, survey of 1,087 professionals shows
- Discrimination rates exceed 50% at two top tech firms
- 26% say bias exists but doesn't affect careers, while 30% dismiss it as exaggerated
- Regional identity bias (North vs South Indian) emerges as second-most reported form
- 44% say bias affects promotions/ evaluations; 21% report social exclusion

Only a small minority engaged official channels, with 6% reporting the issue to HR or leadership and 1% pursuing formal complaints or legal action.

Outcomes also showed limited progress. Around 57% said the situation did not improve, and 23% reported that it worsened after action (or inaction).

A professional from an automobile manufacturing giant pushed back against narratives framing the issue as resentment towards Indian H-1B workers. "It is not racist to point out that a majority of these visas go to Indians. That is fair and valid. What is racist, however, is hating on individual Indians instead of blaming the systems, laws and corporations that enable it," the respondent said.

Another respondent, a Google professional, noted that bias isn't always external. "Being Indian myself, I've actually faced more challenges working with other Indians because of micro-management or favouritism."

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-4, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052. Email:dgm4bswml25@gmail.com

No. DGM-4/ BSWML/ Tend/ 04/ 2025-26/Call-2 Date: 03.12.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) CALL-2

(Through GOK KPP Only)

1. The Deputy General Manager-4, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites fresh proposals from eligible bidders for the works detailed in the table below. The Bidders may submit tenders for works given in the table through KPPP portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) The Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the instructions to bidders to qualify for award of the contract.
2. Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka from 08.12.2025.
3. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	No. of Toilets	EMD Amount (in Rs)	Remarks
1	Construction of SHE Toilets under PPP Model in GBA Limits. Package-1B.	07	Rs.3,00,000/-	General

Calendar of events:

1. Last Date for receipt of Tenders is 24.12.2025 upto 4.00 p.m.
2. Last date for uploading queries on KPP portal 12.12.2025 upto 4.00 p.m.
3. Pre-Bid Meeting under the Chairmanship of Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager (tech), BSWML on 15.12.2025 at 4:00 p.m at Meeting Hall, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru - 52.
4. Date of Opening of Technical bids are on 29.12.2025 by 4.00 p.m. or next working day.
5. Opening of financial bids will be intimated to technically qualified bidders.

Terms and Conditions:

1. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the Tenderers of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Tenderers. It is the Tenderers responsibility to verify the KPP portal for the latest information related to the tender, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com. KPP portal help desk telephone numbers are: 080-22371090/22373788. The tenderer is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders.
2. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of KPPP portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.
3. Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the KPPP portal only.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-4
BSWML

DIPR/CP/4178/AKAR/2025-26

KARNATAKA TRADE PROMOTION ORGANISATION
KTPO TRADE CENTRE BANGALORE
Plot No. 121, Road No.5, EPIP 2nd Phase, Whitefield Industrial Area, Bengaluru-560 066. Ph.: 080-41687567, 080-41453506
Web : www.ktpo.karnataka.gov.in E-mail : mdktpo@gmail.com
No: KTPO/Manpower/Staff/2025-26 Date: 03.12.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION - Call 2 (Through E-Procurement)

Tender is invited through e-procurement portal for Selection of Manpower agency to perform Maintenance and Administrative works at KTPO, Whitefield under Two Cover System as per KTPP Act, 1999. The Tender need to be submitted through e-procurement portal: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (a)** Uploading Tender Document in the e-portal: **03.12.2025. (b)** Last date & time for submission of tender: **23.12.2025 at 5:00 PM. (c)** Date of Pre-bid meeting: **09.12.2025 at 3.00 PM. (d)** Date & time for opening the Tender: **26.12.2025 at 11.30 AM. (e) Place of Opening of Tender: Office of the Managing Director, Karnataka Trade Promotion Organisation Plot No. 121, Road No. 5, EPIP 2nd Phase Whitefield Industrial Area, Whitefield Bengaluru-560 066.**

Sd/- Managing Director

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS, DEPT. DIVISION, BELAGAVI)

No. PWD/BGM/QUOTATION RATES/TA/2025-26/5390 Date: 03.12.2025

-ITEM RATE QUOTATION NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, PWD Belagavi Division Belagavi invites, Quotations for Construction of the Deputy Commissioner's Office building in Belagavi district. The above work is to be undertaken and quotations are being invited for some selected items as the prices are not available in the Uni SR for the year 2023-24 (continued for the year 2025-26) for the preparation of the estimate of the work. Quotations are invited by The Executive Engineer, PWD Belagavi Division Belagavi for the items on the notice board of the office, subject to the following conditions.

Terms and Conditions:

1.The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Belgaum Division, Belgaum reserves the right to reject the said rates without assigning any reason. 2. The rates should be inclusive of all charges. 3. GST at 18% will be paid separately. 4. The rates should be quoted for the essential material items given and in case if any change in specifications of items this should be clearly stated. 5. Sealed quotations should reach this office on or before 10-12-2025 @ 5.00PM or in person to this office. Delay in postal transit will not be considered. For More Information Contact this office and Helpline No: 0831-2467103

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Public Works Department, Belagavi Division Belagavi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1425/KSMCA/2025-26

DIPLOMATIC TENSIONS

China blasts UK for delaying decision on London embassy

London cites mounting security concerns

BEIJING, AP/PTI

China on Wednesday criticised the United Kingdom government's latest delay in deciding whether to approve the construction of a major new Chinese Embassy in London.

British authorities said on Tuesday that a decision previously expected by December 10 would now be pushed back to January 20, citing rising security concerns and the need for further inter-agency consultations.

"The UK's repeated delay in granting approval is completely unjustified, and the reasons they have given are untenable," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said when asked about the development.

The government was "strongly dissatisfied," he added.

BRITAIN SEES RED

- The UK pushed the decision from December 10 to January 20, 2026, citing security issue.
- The planned embassy at Royal Mint Court, near the Tower of London, would be China's largest in Europe.

Plans for the large embassy complex — located close to London's financial district and sensitive data cables — have been stalled for years.

The proposed site at Royal Mint Court, near the Tower of London, would be the largest Chinese Embassy in Europe, covering 20,000 square metres (around 215,000 square feet).

Critics have warned that the facility could be used for espionage, and lawmakers from across the political spectrum have urged the government to reject the proposal.

The UK government's planning agency said the delay would allow more time to assess security issues.

"The Home Office and Foreign Office have provided views on particular security implications, and have been clear throughout that a decision should not be taken until we confirm that those considerations have been completed or resolved," Tom Wells, a spokesperson for Prime Minister Keir Starmer, said Tuesday.

Some critics have suggested the decision was postponed as ministers prepare for Starmer's expected visit to Beijing early next year.

The delay comes amid growing scrutiny of the government over its handling of multiple allegations of Chinese spying in recent weeks.

Indian-origin expert to head British Asian Trust

LONDON, PTI: A British Indian expert in the field of philanthropy and large-scale events was on Wednesday named as the chief executive of British Asian Trust, a charity founded by King Charles to tackle poverty, inequality and injustice in South Asia.

Hitan Mehta, awarded an OBE in the King's 2023 New Year Honours List in recognition of his years of service to Britain's South Asian community, played a key role in establishing the British Asian Trust as its first-ever employee.

Over the past 18 years, London-based Mehta has worked closely with King Charles III, who founded the charity as the Prince of Wales in 2007 and continues as its founding patron.

"It is an honour to step into this role at such a pivotal moment for the British Asian Trust. As we enter an important period of global and UK diaspora engagement, I am deeply grateful to our trustees, our royal founding patron, and our valued partners and supporters for their continued confidence in our mission," said Mehta, formerly the charity's Executive Director.

US pauses immigration from 19 countries

Somalis should go back to their country: Trump

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey speaks at a press conference to address reports of a planned US federal operation targeting Somali immigrants, in Minneapolis on Tuesday. REUTERS

The Trump administration is pausing all immigration applications such as requests for green cards for people from 19 countries banned from travel earlier this year, as part of sweeping immigration changes in the wake of the shooting of two National Guard troops.

The changes were outlined in a policy memo posted on Tuesday on the website of US Citizenship and Immigration Services, the agency tasked with processing and approving all requests for immigration benefits.

The pause puts on hold a wide range of immigration-related decisions such as green card applications or naturalisations for immigrants from those 19 countries that the Trump administration has described as high-risk. The administration in June banned travel to the US by citizens of 12 countries and restricted access for those from seven others, citing national security concerns. The ban applied to citizens of Afghanistan, Myanmar, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen while the restricted access applied to people from Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan and Venezuela.

At the time, no action was taken against immigrants from those countries who were already in the US before the travel ban went into effect.

But now the news from USCIS means those people already in the US — regardless of when they arrived — will come under extra scrutiny.

President Donald Trump on Tuesday also said he did not want Somali immigrants in the US, saying residents of the war-ravaged eastern African country are too reliant on US social safety net. Trump's contemptuous description of the entire immigrant community is the latest example of him pointedly attacking the Somali diaspora in the US.

DONALD TRUMP
US president

"They (Somalis) contribute nothing. I don't want them in our country.

Munir deliberately igniting tensions with Afghanistan, says Imran Khan

LAHORE, PTI: Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan on Wednesday claimed that army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir's policies are "disastrous" for the country and accused him of deliberately "igniting tensions" with Afghanistan.

The 73-year-old former cricketer-turned-politician made the remarks in a social media post a day after his sister, Dr Uzma Khan, met him at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail after more than a month.

"Asim Munir's policies are disastrous for Pakistan. Because of his policies, terrorism has spiralled out of control that grieves me deeply," Khan said in a post on X.

"Asim Munir has no concern for Pakistan's national interests. He is doing all this merely to please Western powers. He deliberately ignited tensions with Afghanistan so that he could be seen internationally as a so-called 'mujahid' (Islamic fighter)," Khan said. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder said he opposed "drone attacks and military operations against own people in the country which he said would only fuel more terrorism".

EU agrees deal to ban Russian gas by end of 2027

BRUSSELS, AFP: European Union lawmakers and member states reached a deal Wednesday to ban all imports of Russian gas before the end of 2027, as the bloc seeks to choke off key funds feeding Moscow's war chest.

"This is the dawn of a new era, the era of Europe's full energy independence from Russia," EU chief Ursula von der Leyen told reporters following the overnight deal.

Aimed at breaking a reliance the bloc has struggled to end despite the invasion of Ukraine, the accord marks a compromise between EU capitals and the European Parliament, which wanted the ban to hit sooner.

"We've made it: Europe is turning off the tap on Russian gas, forever," EU Energy Commissioner Dan Jorgensen wrote on X.

"We've chosen energy security and independence for Europe. No more blackmail. No more market manipulation by Putin. We stand strong with Ukraine."

But the Kremlin hit back, saying the move would "accelerate" a decline of the EU's economy, as it would force the bloc to resort to more expensive alternatives.

Russia, Ukraine ready for more talks with US on truce

No compromise on issue of territories, says Kremlin

MOSCOW, AFP

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen attends a press conference after a meeting on Ukraine's financing needs in Brussels on Wednesday. REUTERS

Russia and Ukraine said on Wednesday they were prepared for further talks with the United States to end almost four years of war, after US envoy Steve Witkoff and President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner left the Kremlin with no breakthrough on a peace agreement.

Talks between Russian leader Vladimir Putin and the US officials ended in the early hours of Wednesday, with neither side announcing tangible progress. The Kremlin said no "compromise" had been reached on the crucial issue of territories.

On Wednesday morning, the Kremlin said it had made clear to the Americans what was "unacceptable" to Moscow.

Witkoff and Kushner delivered an updated version of a US peace plan following Washington's recent consultations with Kyiv.

The Kremlin insisted it was inaccurate to claim Putin had rejected the plan outright, saying Russia remained committed to diplomacy — even as Putin issued a stark warning that Moscow was "ready" to confront Europe if it chose war.

"We are still ready to meet as many times as is needed to reach a peace settlement," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

Europeans accuse Putin of feigning interest in peace

Ukraine and its European allies accused Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday of feigning interest in peace efforts after five hours of talks with US envoys produced no breakthrough, AP/PTI reports from Kyiv. The Russian leader "should end the bluster and the bloodshed and be ready to come to the table and to support a just and lasting peace," said UK Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha urged Putin to "stop wasting the world's time."

Myanmar opium cultivation hit highest level in a decade: UN report

KUALA LUMPUR, AP/PTI

GROWING STEADILY

- Myanmar is now the world's leading source of illicit opium.
- Rising prices, deepening poverty and ongoing civil conflict are pushing farmers toward poppy cultivation, with the opium economy now worth up to $1.05 billion.

Opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar surged to its highest level in a decade this year as the nation engaged in a civil war remains one of the world's primary suppliers of illicit drugs, according to a United Nations survey.

The growth solidifies Myanmar's position as the world's main known source of illicit opium, especially following sharp declines in production in Afghanistan after the ruling Taliban imposed a ban following their 2021 takeover.

The Myanmar Opium Survey 2025, issued Wednesday by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, found the area where opium is cultivated expanded by 17% from 2024 to 53,100 hectares (131,212 acres), the largest area since 2015.

UNODC also has described Myanmar as the largest methamphetamine producer in the world. Meth is easier to make on an industrial scale than labour-intensive opium and is distributed as tablets and crystal meth by land, sea and air around Asia and the Pacific.

Opium, which is processed into morphine and heroin, is harvested from poppy flowers and Myanmar's farmers have pushed deeper into harvesting as the country faces widespread poverty and instability during the country's ongoing civil war that erupted after its army ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021.

A key driver of Myanmar's production growth has been surging opium prices. Fresh opium now fetches about $329 per kg, more than double the 2019 price of $145.

UK medical team joins effort to treat Khaleda Zia

DHAKA, PTI: A four-member specialist medical team from the UK arrived in Bangladesh on Wednesday to assist in the treatment of former prime minister Khaleda Zia, who remains in a critical condition in a private hospital here.

The delegation, led by Dr Richard Buell, visited Evercare Hospital soon after arrival and reviewed the condition of the 80-year-old Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson, news portal tbsnews.net reported. The UK doctors also held an initial round of discussions with the local medical team treating her, it said, quoting hospital sources.

Buell arrived in Dhaka in the morning, BNP media cell member Shayrul Kabir Khan said. Khan hoped the arrival of foreign specialists will mark significant progress in Zia's ongoing medical care.

FOR HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Thailand lifts ban on afternoon alcohol sales

BANGKOK, AP/PTI

Thailand on Wednesday lifted a 53-year-old ban on the afternoon retail sale of alcoholic drinks, a move expected to help boost year-end holiday tourism, as well as business at venues such as bars and convenience stores.

The ban from 2 pm to 5 pm will be lifted on a trial basis for 180 days, after which its effects will be evaluated.

An afternoon ban on selling beer, spirits and wine was enacted in 1972, when Thailand was under military rule, though the original reasons for the measure are now obscure. Thailand is predominantly Buddhist, and the religion discourages imbibing intoxicating substances, though drinking is common.

Consumers are now allowed to buy such beverages from 11 am until midnight, according to an amendment of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act made official on Tuesday by its publication in the Royal Gazette. While sales end at midnight, customers at nightlife venues are allowed to keep drinking until 1 am.

While the change was being considered, there were concerns that extending drinking to later hours could exacerbate the problem of drunk driving.

Afternoon sales of alcoholic drinks often have been in a grey area, with exemptions made for airports, some entertainment venues and hotels.

Enforcement was inconsistent by neighbourhood, and under-the-counter sales were often available at small shops and eateries. There was a comprehensive ban on alcohol in many areas during Covid-19 pandemic.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi (2nd R) receives France's President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte Macron in Beijing on Wednesday. AFP

Macron arrives in China for talks on trade ties, Russia-Ukraine war

▸ Emmanuel Macron arrived in China on Wednesday for a three-day state visit focusing on trade and diplomatic talks as the French president seeks to enlist Beijing in pressuring Russia toward a ceasefire with Ukraine, AP/PTI reports from Beijing.

Macron will advocate for an agenda of cooperation in economic and trade matters aimed at achieving a balance that ensures "sustainable, solid growth that benefits everyone," his office said. France is aiming to attract more investment from Chinese companies and facilitate market access for French exports. During the visit, officials from both nations are expected to sign several agreements in the energy, food industry, and aviation sectors. Macron is committed to defend "fair and reciprocal market access," his office said. He and his wife Brigitte wore open overcoats against the winter chill as they stepped off a plane after nightfall at an airport in Beijing and walked down a red-carpeted jetway. They were greeted by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who spoke with Macron before the French leader and his wife departed in a limousine.

Airbus cuts 2025 delivery target

▸ Aerospace manufacturer Airbus expects to deliver fewer planes than planned this year following an issue with fuselage panels used on some A320 planes, AP/PTI reports from Paris.

The European company said Wednesday it is targeting around 790 commercial aircraft deliveries in 2025 "in light of recent supplier quality issue on fuselage panels impacting its A320 family delivery flow". The previous target was around 820 aircraft, the company said, explaining the projection was revised downward because the problem occurred at the end of the year, which is traditionally a very busy period. The issue affecting a "limited number" of metal panels on the single-aisle A320 aircraft was contained and new panels meet all requirements, the company said.

People look at a Kawasaki Kaleido humanoid robot at the International Robot Exhibition in Tokyo on Wednesday. AFP

Search to resume for MH370 plane

▸ Malaysia's transport ministry said Wednesday that the deep-sea hunt for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 will resume December 30, renewing hopes of finally locating the jet that vanished without a trace more than a decade ago, AP/PTI reports from Kuala Lumpur.

The Boeing 777 plane disappeared from radar shortly after taking off on March 8, 2014, carrying 239 people, mostly Chinese nationals, on a flight from Malaysia's capital, Kuala Lumpur, to Beijing. Satellite data showed the plane turned from its flight path and headed south to the far-southern Indian Ocean, where it is believed to have crashed. The transport ministry said that US-based marine robotics firm Ocean Infinity will search intermittently from December 30 for a total of 55 days.

$50k reward for tip on Indian: FBI

▸ The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is offering a reward of up to $50,000 for information about an Indian national wanted for his alleged involvement in the 2017 murder of an Indian woman and her six-year-old son, with authorities here urging the government of India to extradite the suspect, PTI reports from New York.

Nazeer Hameed, 38, has been charged with the murder of Sasikala Narra, 38 and her son Anish Narra inside an apartment in Maple Shade, New Jersey in March 2017. In February this year, Hameed was charged with two counts of First Degree Murder, two counts of possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose and unlawful possession of a weapon.

A woman carries an LPG cylinder in her inundated house following flash floods in the aftermath of Cyclone Ditwah, in Colombo on Wednesday. AFP

Rupee slips below 90 against dollar for the first time

FPI outflows, trade deal uncertainties weigh on currency

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Indian rupee fell below the 90-mark against the US dollar for the first time on Wednesday, dragged by persistent equity selling by foreign portfolio investors and uncertainty around the US-India trade deal as PM Narendra Modi's government rolls out the red carpet for Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The rupee hit a record low of 90.29 against the dollar in intra-day. It closed at 90.19, which is 0.4% down from the previous day.

The rupee has slipped by 5.3% against a dollar so far this year. This has made the rupee, Asia's worst performing currency so far in 2025. This has been the sharpest decline in its value since 2022.

According to SBI Research, the decline in the value of the Indian currency is being driven to the edge by "trifecta of limbos in US-India trade deal, FPI outflows, chiefly equities (after two years of robust inflows) and RBI's clear stance of distancing itself from an 'interventionist regime', while wagering all it takes on excessive volatility by traders, arbitrageurs and jobbers."

"At present, the ability of market participants to supply greenback is quite limited, leaving the Mint Street as the last resort and ultimate supplier of USD to the market, but the RBI has likely chosen a restrained approach, avoiding aggressive interventions as part of its policy to not protect any level," SBI Research said in a note.

"Additionally, once the rupee breached the 90-level, several exotic options like barriers were triggered, amplifying volatility and accelerating the pace of depreciation," it said.

The rupee has slumped from 85-90 per dollar in less than a year, among the quickest fall in terms of the number of days. Earlier, the rupee took 1,815 days to reach from 65-70 per dollar, 581 days from 70-75 per dollar and almost 800-900 days for 75-80. From 80-85 per dollar, it was also within a year.

Veteran banker Uday Kotak said pulling of money out of Indian equities by foreign investors is among the key reasons for the rupee slide.

"The proximate reason: foreign selling of Indian stocks both FPI & PE under FDI. Indian investors buying. Time will tell who is smarter. For now foreigners seem smarter. 1 year nifty $ return is 0. But this is a long game. Time for Indian business to shake out of its comfort zone," Kotak posted on X.

Foreign portfolio investors have offloaded around Rs 1,48,010 crore worth of stocks so far this year.

Uncertainties around the US-India trade deal have weighed on the rupee. While India has expressed hope that the first tranches of the deal would be signed by the year-end, analysts said Putin's visit to New Delhi is unlikely to go well with the Trump administration and thus the deal might be delayed further.

Putin is scheduled to land in New Delhi on Thursday. This will be his first visit to India since the start of the Ukraine war.

Not losing sleep over falling rupee against dollar, says CEA

V Anantha Nageswaran

NEW DELHI, PTI: Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran on Wednesday said the government is not losing sleep over the declining rupee, which has breached the 90-level against the US dollar.

The falling rupee is not affecting inflation or exports, he said on the sidelines of a CII event here.

A falling rupee helps outward shipment, but makes import costlier. Import-dependent sectors such as gems and jewellery, petroleum and electronics may see lower benefits due to a rise in input costs, putting pressure on inflationary expectations.

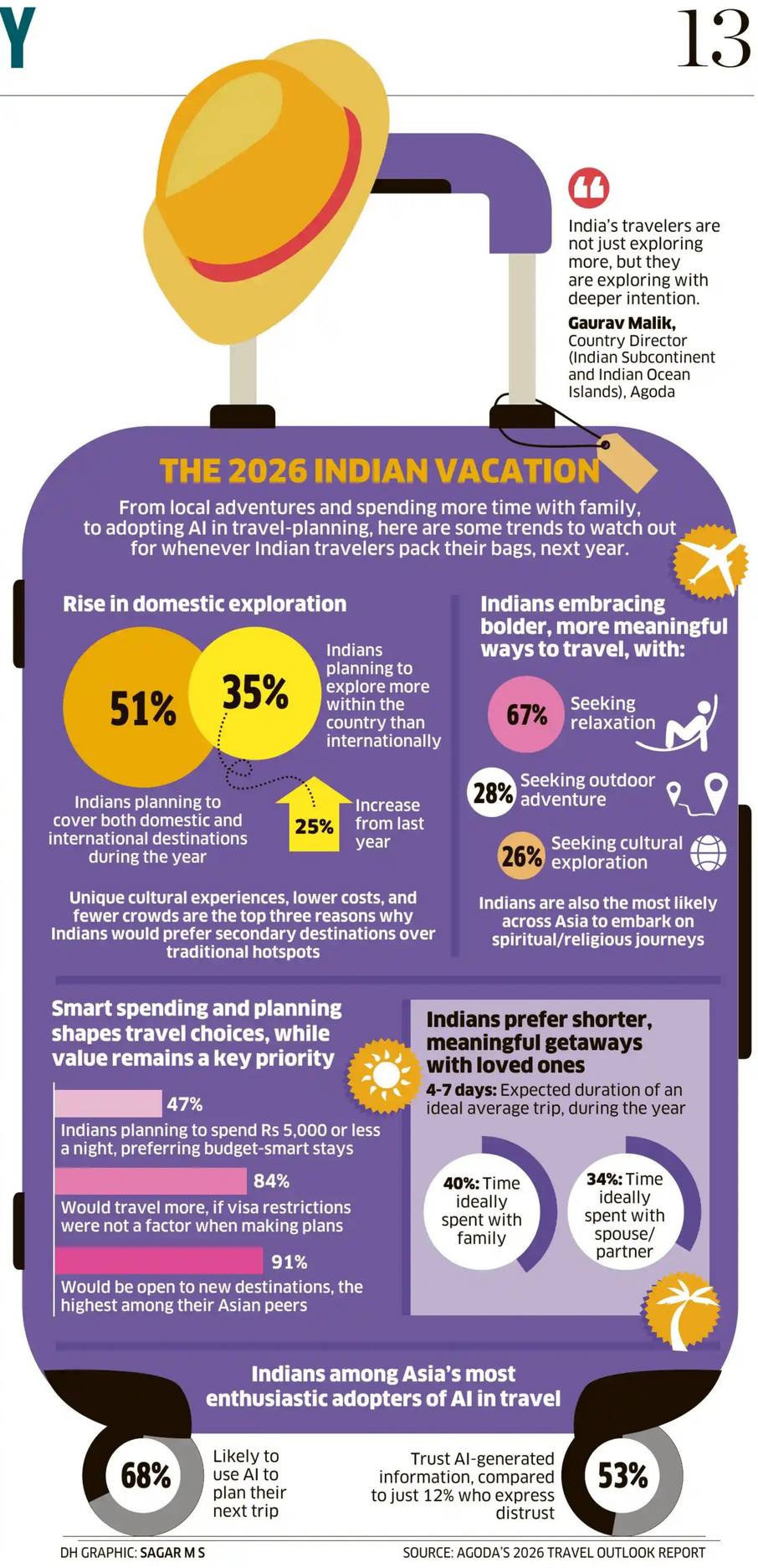
However, he expressed hope that it would improve next year.

In 2025, the rupee depreciated about 5% against the US dollar.

Speaking about gross FDI target, Nageswaran said, "We may cross $100 billion this year."

During the first six months of the current fiscal, total FDI, which includes equity inflows, reinvested earnings and other capital, increased to about $50 billion as against $42.3 billion in the same period of 2024-25.

India's gross FDI inflows for FY2024-25 were approximately $81.04 billion, a 14% increase over the previous fiscal.


India's travelers are not just exploring more, but they are exploring with deeper intention.
Gaurav Malik, Country Director (Indian Subcontinent and Indian Ocean Islands), Agoda
THE 2026 INDIAN VACATION
From local adventures and spending more time with family, to adopting AI in travel-planning, here are some trends to watch out for whenever Indian travelers pack their bags, next year.
Rise in domestic exploration
51%
Indians planning to cover both domestic and international destinations during the year
35%
Indians planning to explore more within the country than internationally
25%
Increase from last year
Unique cultural experiences, lower costs, and fewer crowds are the top three reasons why Indians would prefer secondary destinations over traditional hotspots
Indians embracing bolder, more meaningful ways to travel, with:
67% Seeking relaxation
28% Seeking outdoor adventure
26% Seeking cultural exploration
Indians are also the most likely across Asia to embark on spiritual/religious journeys
Smart spending and planning shapes travel choices, while value remains a key priority
47% Indians planning to spend Rs 5,000 or less a night, preferring budget-smart stays
84% Would travel more, if visa restrictions were not a factor when making plans
91% Would be open to new destinations, the highest among their Asian peers
Indians prefer shorter, meaningful getaways with loved ones
4-7 days: Expected duration of an ideal average trip, during the year
40%: Time ideally spent with family
34%: Time ideally spent with spouse/partner
Indians among Asia's most enthusiastic adopters of AI in travel
68% Likely to use AI to plan their next trip
53% Trust AI-generated information, compared to just 12% who express distrust
DH GRAPHIC: SAGAR M S
SOURCE: AGODA'S 2026 TRAVEL OUTLOOK REPORT

India's services sector growth rises in Nov

PMI Index at 59.8, supported by new business intakes

INDEX OVERVIEW

- International sales continued to improve, as firms report gains from Asia, Europe, and the Middle East
- However, the rate of expansion retreated to an eight-month low
- Although more jobs were added to India's service economy in November, the rate of expansion was moderate
- The HSBC India Composite PMI Output Index fell from 60.4 in October to 59.7 in November

NEW DELHI, PTI

India's services sector growth accelerated during November, after losing some momentum in October, driven by a faster upturn in new business intakes and subdued price pressures, a monthly survey said on Wednesday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services PMI Business Activity Index rose to 59.8 in November, from 58.9 in October, supported by new business growth.

In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"India's services PMI Business Activity Index rose from 58.9 in October to 59.8 in November, driven by robust new business intakes that fuelled output growth," said HSBC Chief India Economist Pranjul Bhandari.

International sales continued to improve, as firms reported gains from Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. However, the rate of expansion retreated to an eight-month low, the report said, adding that fierce international competition and the supply of cheaper services elsewhere constrained growth.

"... International sales expanded at an eight-month low due to fierce overseas services competition. Input price inflation reached its lowest rate in nearly five-and-a-half years, resulting in negligible increases in selling charges," Bhandari said.

On the employment front, although more jobs were added to India's service economy in November, the rate of expansion was moderate and broadly similar to those seen in the previous two months, the survey said.

"Employment growth remained modest, with most companies reporting no change in payroll numbers. Meanwhile, India's composite PMI remained strong, though it softened slightly to 59.7 in November, reflecting a slowdown in growth of factory production," Bhandari added.

The HSBC India Composite PMI Output Index fell from 60.4 in October to 59.7 in November, indicating the slowest rate of growth since May, amid a moderation in growth and softer inflationary pressures halfway through the third fiscal quarter.

Composite PMI indices are weighted averages of comparable manufacturing and services PMI indices. Weights reflect the relative size of the manufacturing and service sectors according to official GDP data.

The year-ahead optimism waned during November amid concerns about competition and potential disruptions from state assembly elections. Firms still foresee output growth, however, with positive sentiment linked to favourable demand, a greater social media presence, marketing initiatives and plans to keep price increase to a minimum, Bhandari added.

Aequs' Rs 922-cr IPO subscribed 3.42 times

NEW DELHI, PTI: The initial share sale of Aequs Ltd, a contract manufacturing firm specialising in consumer durable goods and aerospace parts, sailed through within hours of the start of the bidding process on Wednesday and finally ended the day with 3.42 times subscription.

The company's Rs 922-crore IPO received bids for 14,36,44,200 shares against 4,20,26,913 shares on offer, translating into 3.42 times subscription, as per NSE data.

Among investor categories, the Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) portion fetched 11.46 times subscription, while non-institutional investors received 3.40 times subscription. The Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) quota got subscribed 66%.

On Tuesday, Aequs said it has garnered Rs 414 crore from anchor investors.

The initial share sale will conclude on December 5. The price band has been fixed at Rs 118-124 per share for the issue, valuing Aequs at over Rs 8,300 crore.

Karnataka enabling next generation of data centres

BENGALURU, DHNS

India's data centre infrastructure has to grow to catch up with demand and fulfil the growth at the same time. Though the country produces over 20% of the world's data, it hosts only 3% of data centre capacity, said Sify CEO — Data Centre and ASSOCHAM National Data Centre Council Co-Chair Sharad Agarwal.

Priyank Kharge

At the 8th ASSOCHAM Smart Datacentres & Cloud Infrastructure Conclave 2025, on Wednesday, he said the industry body brought together experts, policy-makers, ecosystem leaders and users, to discuss five forces of data centre growth in India—Demand, Infrastructure, Policy/Regulations, Supply-Chain and Talent. "The right mix of the five forces is key to the Viksit Bharat dream," he added.

Karnataka is not just enabling the next generation of data centres, it is shaping the digital foundations that will power India's AI-driven future, said ASSOCHAM National Data Centre Council Chair and Yotta Infrastructure Co-founder and CEO Sunil Gupta.

IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge said the state is the place to be for AI, analytics, data centres, cybersecurity, deep tech and everything sustainable and emerging. Its focus is to ensure that data centres are beyond just being compliant. "This means we will have infrastructure that is energy-secure, renewable energy-aligned and water-secure. We will aggressively reduce the carbon footprint and incorporate new technologies, such as liquid-cooling, advanced thermal management, and other next-generation solutions. The roadmap will also focus on skill-ready workforce for data centres," he added.

Meanwhile, ASSOCHAM and PwC launched a strategic roadmap positioning Karnataka as India's leading sustainable and AI-ready data centre hub.

The global digital infrastructure sector is expanding quickly, with data centre capacity expected to exceed 2,300 facilities by 2026, and investments crossing $400 billion by 2030. India is one of the fastest-growing markets, projected to attract $10-12 billion by 2030. Karnataka leads this growth with strong tech talent, progressive policies, and expansion into tier-2 and 3 cities.

Meanwhile, Priyank also e-launched NTT's largest data centre campus at Devanahalli. The 8.5-acre campus delivers 100 MW facility load, with Bengaluru 4A ready for commissioning at 22.4 MW. With a 220-kV dedicated substation, IGBC Platinum rating, renewable integration, and advanced security, the campus strengthens Karnataka's position as a sustainable, AI-ready digital infrastructure hub, according to a statement.

State signs 2 agreements

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka government on Wednesday signed two MoUs, including one with digital asset exchange platform Coinbase India, to strengthen the state's position as an on-chain innovation capital and a cybersecurity centre of excellence. The second MoU, with Refroid Technologies, to introduce a cutting-edge, energy-efficient, Made-in-India liquid-cooling portfolio, designed for next-generation AI and hyperscale workloads.

IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge said through these partnerships, "we aim to unlock new economic opportunities for our youth, build strong technical capability, and move rapidly toward our vision of making Karnataka a global pioneer in digital innovation".

India's smartphone export to US triples to $1.47 billion

NEW DELHI, PTI: India's smartphone exports to the US increased more than three-folds year-on-year to $1.47 billion in October, despite global challenges, according to the government data.

The exports stood at $0.46 billion in October last year.

Cumulatively, smartphone exports to the United States surged to $10.78 billion during April-October this fiscal, from $3.60 billion in the year-ago period, the data showed.

The shipments were registering a decline on a monthly basis, but now they have rebounded.

It was $1.65 billion in April and $2.29 billion in May. But, exports fell to $1.99 billion in June, $1.52 billion in July, $0.96 billion in August, and $0.88 billion in September.

This momentum held firm even as tariff-related uncertainties threatened to weigh on demand and pricing, an official said.

Worldwide exports

However, on a year-on-year basis, these exports to the US were registering positive growth. It was $0.66 billion in April last year, and $0.76 billion in May 2024, $0.59 billion in June last year, $0.49 billion in July 2024, $0.39 billion in August last year and $0.26 billion in September 2024.

According to data, India's worldwide smartphone exports rose from $10.68 billion to $15.95 billion in April-October 2025, marking a 49.35% expansion.

Embassy REIT buys B'luru office space for Rs 852 cr

BENGALURU, DHNS: Real estate company Embassy Office Parks REIT announced that it has entered into an agreement to acquire a 0.3 million sq ft office property located within Embassy GolfLinks Business Park for Rs 852 crore.

The acquisition consolidates Embassy REIT's scale and ownership in a micro-market that continues to see strong leasing demand and premium rental growth. "Bengaluru continues to be India's office capital, and Embassy GolfLinks is home to some of the world's most influential technology and GCC occupiers. With a 100% leased, long-tenured asset anchored by a leading global investment firm, this acquisition further strengthens our presence in this premier micro-market," Embassy REIT CEO Amit Shetty said.

"As India's leading office REIT, we remain focused on disciplined expansion that delivers stronger cash flows and enhances value for our unitholders," Shetty added.

Meesho's Rs 5,421-cr IPO subscribed 2.35 times on Day 1

NEW DELHI, PTI: The IPO of e-commerce firm Meesho Ltd received 2.35 times subscription on the first day of share sale on Wednesday, helped by across the board investors' participation.

The three-day IPO got bids for 65,40,18,165 shares, against 27,79,38,446 shares on offer, as per NSE data.

Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) category received 3.85 times subscription, while the portion meant for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) got subscribed 2.12 times. The quota for non-institutional investors fetched 1.80 times subscription.

Meesho on Tuesday said it has garnered a little over Rs 2,439 crore from anchor investors. It has fixed a price band of Rs 105-111 per share, valuing Meesho at Rs 50,096 crore at the upper end.

The IPO has a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 4,250 crore, along with an OFS of 10.55 crore shares valued at Rs 1,171 crore at the upper band, taking the total issue size to Rs 5,421 crore.

Flipkart appoints Dan Neary to Board

BENGALURU, DHNS: E-commerce major Flipkart on Wednesday announced the appointment of Dan Neary to its Board of Directors. This announcement comes at a time when the company is accelerating its next phase of growth ahead of its planned IPO filing.

Neary's global governance experience and leadership across technology, AI, and digital ecosystems will complement Flipkart's long-term vision of building a sustainable, inclusive, and future-ready commerce platform that continues to serve India at scale, Flipkart said in a statement. Kalyan Krishnamurthy, Chief Executive Officer and Member of the Board, Flipkart Group, said, "With AI transforming every layer of retail, from custwomer experience to supply chain and seller empowerment, Dan's perspective and leadership will help accelerate our innovation agenda."

Fresher hiring sees 30% surge in November, says report

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Driven by service-led sectors such as hospitality and education, fresher hiring in November witnessed a 30% growth and over 16+ years of experience saw a 27% surge, mostly driven by traditional sectors such as healthcare and IT, according to the Naukri JobSpeak Index.

Overall, white-collar hiring reported a 6% consolidated growth in November, compared to last year. Though IT hiring remained flat in November, several non-IT sectors witnessed solid hiring growth. Within November alone, education (44%), real estate (40%), hospitality/travel (40%), and insurance (36%) posted the strongest gains, the data showed.

High value roles that have a package of Rs 20 lakh per annum and unicorn hiring surged in November by 38% and 35%, respectively.

Global Capability Centres (GCCs) also witnessed a hiring surge of 18% y-o-y. While Strategy & Management Consulting GCCs led with a 50% growth, IT sector GCCs grew by 9%.

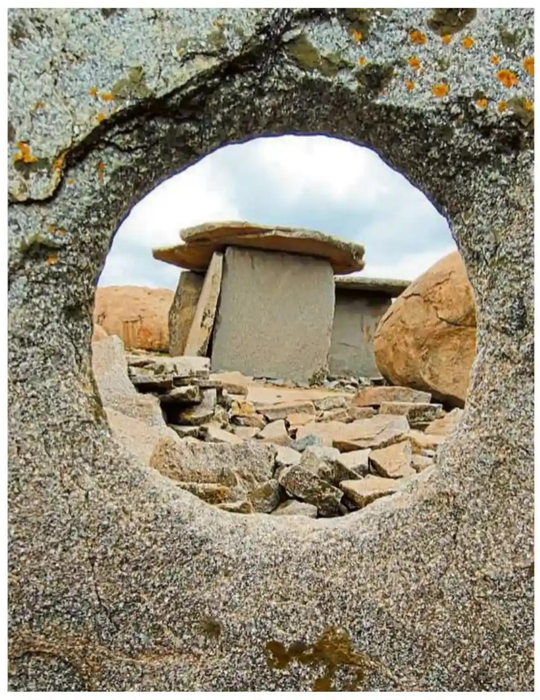
"The growth in Indian white collar hiring continues to be in the 6-7% range this fiscal and this period was no exception. Shift towards non-IT sectors and demand for high-value roles, continues. One early trend we are observing on the platform is the increased digital hiring adoption among small businesses," Naukri Chief Business Officer Pawan Goyal said.

In November, led by e-commerce players at 27%, unicorn hiring saw a significant growth. IT unicorns are witnessing a 16% surge.

As far as cities are concerned, Kolkata saw a 21% y-o-y hiring surge overall, with 102% growth in hiring by GCCs. Bengaluru saw 22% growth in hiring. Emerging cities such as Ahmedabad and Jaipur led the charge in fresher hiring as these cities witnessed a 41% and 31% growth, respectively.

Across the country, there has been a 30% surge in entry-level hiring with non-metros taking the lead. Ahmedabad topped the chart at 41%, followed by Coimbatore (32%) and Jaipur (31%). Both Bengaluru and Mumbai posted 26% and 29% growth, respectively.

An aerial view of the central cluster of dolmens at Hire Benakal near Gangavati, with the rock pool at top left. PHOTO BY KAILASH RAO



A tall dolmen of the central cluster at Hire Benakal.

Sentinels of our prehistoric past

From rock art panels to stately dolmens, the state's megalithic sites, which offer a glimpse into the beliefs, rituals and ingenuity of our ancestors, are now under threat from human activities, writes
Srikumar M Menon

The megalithic site at Doddamolathe in Kodagu district with a dolmen encircled by slab circles in the foreground.

After centuries of obscurity, the extensive megalithic site near the village of Hire Benakal in North Karnataka has suddenly shot into the limelight, with the possibility of making it to the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites. And rightly so, for apart from being one of the most spectacular megalithic sites of the world, the larger area around Hire Benakal — with its rich ensemble of vestiges from prehistory — offers us the best opportunity to understand megalithic culture and belief systems. These vestiges, ranging from a profusion of rock art panels, to ringing rocks, evidence for prehistoric habitation and the monuments themselves, give us a peek into the minds of their creators.

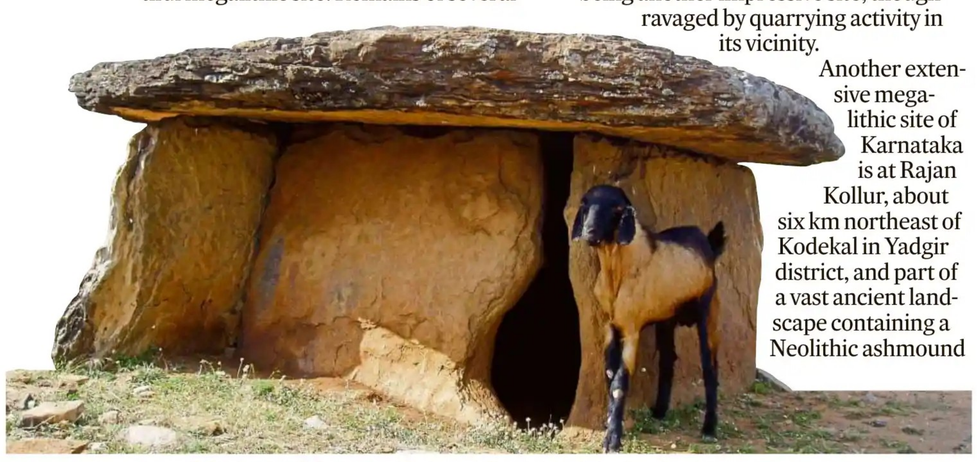
Hire Benakal is virtually a museum of megalithic forms, the site even providing clues into the methods employed by the megalith-builders for the extraction and dressing of stone, and subsequent erection of the various megalith types. Most eye-catching are the tall dolmens — box-like structures made of four vertical slabs surmounted by a heavy capstone, often with a circular porthole in one of the vertical slabs.

However, there are over a thousand megaliths of various types: dolmenoid cists, which look like smaller dolmens sunk partially into the ground; irregular polygonal chambers, which can be thought of as crude dolmens, and many other forms.

A large stone drum, presiding over the megaliths from a rocky eminence, and a pool created near the largest cluster of megaliths hint at the role of sound and water in whatever rituals for the dead that might have taken place here. For megaliths are but monuments to the dead — some of them sepulchral, which once contained the remains of dead people, and others commemorative, in nature.

Much as Hire Benakal is spectacular, and important for understanding megaliths, it is one of hundreds of megalithic sites in Karnataka. On a hill near the village of Doddamolathe in Somwarpet taluk of Kodagu district is another beautiful megalithic site. Remains of several dolmenoid cists are strewn across the hilltop, with a few of the dolmens better preserved than most. The striking feature about the megaliths here is the ring of stone slabs encircling the stone chambers, with a pair of curved slabs forming a portal of sorts aligned with the porthole.

Interestingly, the megalithic site near Doddamolathe is known as Mori Betta locally, deriving from the seemingly ubiquitous folklore attributing the authorship of these monuments to a now-extinct race of dwarves called Moriyas. At Hire Benakal, too, the villagers refer to the megalithic site as Moriyara Gudda, and the megaliths as Moriyara Mane — the houses of the dwarves. Doddamolathe is the largest among several megalithic sites in the surrounding landscape, Morikallu Betta being another impressive site, though ravaged by quarrying activity in its vicinity.



One of the large dolmens at Rajan Kollur in Yadgir district. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

Another extensive megalithic site of Karnataka is at Rajan Kollur, about six km northeast of Kodekal in Yadgir district, and part of a vast ancient landscape containing a Neolithic ashmound and the megalithic stone alignment site at Hanamsagar within a few kilometres. There are dolmens and dolmenoid cists distributed in two clusters, less than a kilometre west of the village. The larger cluster is now fenced in and protected by the Archeological Survey of India, with cultivated fields intervening between it and the smaller cluster. Col Philip Meadows Taylor, who was the political superintendent (1841-53) and later commissioner (1858-60) of Surpur Samsthan, and a keen antiquarian, was the first to report these megaliths, after he visited them in 1850. He recorded nearly 200 dolmens, in one large cluster, of which only about half survive today, the rest having succumbed to agricultural expansion and vandalism.

Meadows Taylor had some of the megaliths opened and found a layer of ash mixed with earth and human bones, along with shards of pottery. Today, most of the dolmens stand vandalised, missing several of their slabs. The dolmens, made of roughly hewn limestone slabs, sometimes have crudely fashioned portholes. The dolmens here vary in size, the largest measuring 4m x 1.75 m and around 1.3m high; while the smaller ones are around 1.8m x 0.75m and only 60cm high. There are even smaller ones, which have been almost obliterated. The megaliths of the eastern cluster sport circular portholes and seem to be dolmenoid cists.

Wanton destruction

One disturbing factor found across all megalithic sites is the wanton destruction which proceeds unabated, often despite being under protection. Quarrying has all but destroyed Mori Kallu, where the surviving dolmens perch on vestigial islands of granite amidst an ocean of destruction.

Although pressure from agriculture and urbanisation takes a toll, most of the damage is from vandals who plunder these ancient structures for suspected treasure within, only to throw away the broken pots containing bone and ash in disgust, when they find nothing valuable within. A typical example was seen at Doddamolathe, where a megalith was freshly vandalised shortly before our visit in 2017.

A plundered megalith is evidence destroyed, as far as archaeology is concerned — evidence which might have yielded valuable insights into the lives of our ancestors, if excavated scientifically by trained personnel. Our megaliths hold the key to understanding the world views, beliefs, rituals and knowledge systems of our forebears from the prehistoric past — those unknown folk who lived in flimsy huts of wattle and daub, but left behind images on rockfaces, which we struggle to make sense of, and expended much energy and effort in building these enigmatic monuments in stone to honour their dead, which were meant to endure centuries after they had vanished.

Little do the vandals realise that therein lies the real treasure.

(The author is with the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru)

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to: spectrum@deccanherald.co.in

Born into stigma, running into light

Born with HIV and raised in the shadows, a young Bengaluru athlete trains for the Everest Marathon, carrying the quiet power of sports as she rewrites her future, writes Joe Williams

On a cold Himalayan morning she has never seen, Monika (name changed) imagines herself standing at the starting line of the Tenzing Hillary Everest Marathon, one of the toughest high-altitude races in the world. For her, reaching that line would be more than a sporting milestone; it would be a defiance of everything life once denied her.

If she qualifies through the Champion-In-Me run club in Bengaluru, Monika could become one of the first HIV-positive athletes to attempt this high-altitude test of endurance.

As we move past World AIDS Day observed on December 1, her journey remains a powerful reminder of the struggles youngsters like her face and of the unexpected doors that sport can open.

"It is our dream, not just mine. I hope someone will be there to cheer for us," Monika says, speaking to a group of people, her eyes carrying both hope and hesitation.

Each morning, Monika travels from Malleshwaram to Kanteerava Stadium — not chasing medals but meaning. She works at a multinational bank, a job she guards closely, knowing how others like her have lost everything once their HIV status became known. "I don't talk about my past. There's nothing there for me anymore," she says. "I just want to move forward. My life is new now."

"We had no one to call our own. They claimed we belonged to them, yet we never truly had a family. All we had was sport, the only thing that held us, saved us, pushed us forward," she says, her voice steady but heavy with memories she rarely revisits.

She remembers the day she stood on the podium at the Tata Steel Kolkata 25K a few years back, winning the women's 10K category, a moment that felt like reclaiming a life long dismissed.

From a hamlet to podiums

Monika's story begins in a small hamlet near Bengaluru. Born with HIV, raised in stigma, surrounded by silence, her life seemed destined for erasure. But sport became the one thing that refused to let her disappear.

"I was 11 when Sir Elvis Joseph found me," she recalls. "That one step changed everything."

From cramped, suffocating rooms, she suddenly found herself running across open fields, discovering breath, space and dignity. Through a sports-led intervention and rehabilitation programme, she found not just training but also purpose.

Sixteen years ago, Elvis Joseph, a sports management professional and Founder-Director of the Bangalore Schools Sports Foundation, walked away from a comfortable corporate career to build a sports-led rehabilitation initiative for HIV-positive children.

'Champion-in-Me' began with just 20 children in Karnataka. Today, more than 3,000 have been mainly trained in athletics and football. A programme that set out to reshape sport into a source of community upliftment now nurtures children who carry identity, confidence and ambition.

Some have competed at the Children's Olympics in the Netherlands. Some have run the Boston Marathon. Others have travelled to the Gold Coast. Each step is proof that stigma can be outrun when someone gives you the shoes.

"These kids are vulnerable," Elvis says. "And ironically, our country still has no plan for them."

This year, three more young athletes will attempt the Everest Marathon alongside Monika — each carrying a story the world once refused to hear.

For Monika, the path ahead is simple in its clarity: keep running, keep climbing, keep believing. Every stride is a step away from the darkness she was born into and a step toward the life she is determined to create.

Cosmos on wheels: Bringing science to classrooms

With high-tech projections and interactive sessions, the mobile digital planetarium is transforming how rural children in the state experience and understand science, writes
Athul Damale

For most students, especially in rural areas, astronomy exists only in textbooks, charts and diagrams on paper. Telescopes and planetariums are out of reach, making the cosmos a mystery. Across Karnataka, the Mobile Digital Planetarium is changing that, taking starry theaters to their schools and giving children a front-row view of the universe.

Launched in 2017 by the Karnataka Science and Technology Promotion Society (KSTePS) under the State Science and Technology Department, the Mobile Digital Planetarium — *Shaale Angaladalli Taralaya* — programme was relaunched in November recently with upgraded technology.

The planetarium consists of a transportable dome theatre, equipped with advanced projection systems, offering students a glimpse of the cosmos.

As many as 11 customised vans have been built to carry these inflatable domes measuring 5 to 6 metres in diameter. These vans go to every school in the state, carrying high-resolution digistar projectors, sound systems, mats for seating and portable cooling units.

Once set up, the dome creates a darkened, theatre-like environment where students settle onto mats as the projection begins. The projection system spans a full hemisphere, recreating a night sky, zooming in on planetary surfaces, demonstrating eclipses and tracing comet paths, backed with educative vocal content in English and local languages. The visual content which includes topics like the birth of the universe, the milky way galaxy, cosmic life, dinosaur era and other topics of various branches of science is projected class-wise and are narrated in the form of a story. Each show lasts 25-30 minutes and can accommodate around 30 to 40 students at once. It ends with an interactive quiz and students giving correct answers are rewarded with gifts like pencils.

"For the first time, I could practically understand how electricity is produced and how a battery functions. The session was so interesting that we asked the organisers to continue it for some more time and they have promised to return with another session soon," said Jnanavi, a Class 10 student from the Government High School in Mangala village in Chamarajnagar taluk.

Stronger buzz in rural areas

Since its inception, the programme has grown steadily and several teachers have observed a marked difference in student engagement. From 2017-18 to 2022-23 (except during the Covid years), the mobile planetarium covered 6,039 schools and conducted 42,752 shows for 15.6 lakh students. However, the operations were suspended in December 2023 following the end of five-years term of the maintenance company.

In the meantime, Karnataka Monitoring and Evaluation Authority (KMEA) assessed the programme's impact and the evaluation report said the programme had been consistently positive, particularly in rural areas where exposure to such learning environments was limited. Thus, the project was relaunched recently with a promise of better experience.

Dheeramahendra H, headmaster of Arali Maradpalya Government Higher Primary School in Tumakuru district, said, "Students, and even teachers, often recall the planetarium experience. It has sparked scientific curiosity among the children to such an extent that we have started displaying educational videos on topics like star formation and Earth's evolution using projectors during free periods."

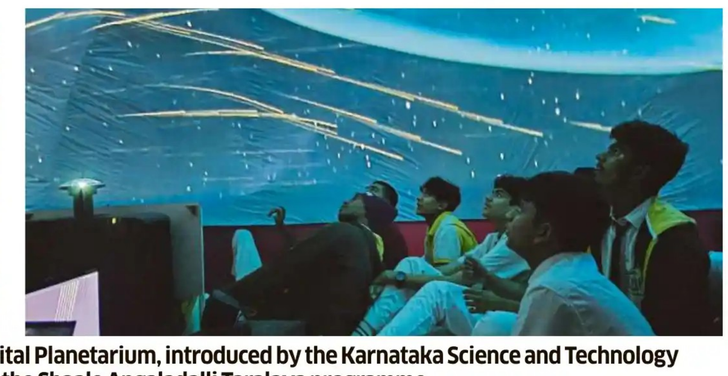
Several other teachers opined that the mobile planetarium has filled an important educational gap as explaining complex scientific concepts can be difficult in a traditional classroom.

Kumar D, a teacher at Mainahalli Government Model Higher Primary School in Koppal, added that children in rural areas rarely have access to planetariums. Bringing this experience to schools inspires them naturally. After the session, students ask more questions and begin thinking logically.

According to KMEA Director (Publication, Extension and Training) Vinay G P, the real success of the initiative lies in its ability to inspire. "Even if a single student develops interest in science after experiencing this practical, immersive show, it will be a significant achievement for the project," he said.

Of the 11 vehicles currently on the road, seven have been deployed in the Kalyana Karnataka region. "Our aim is to reach every district and we have already requested additional planetarium units to expand the programme," he added.

Manoz Jain, KMEA Chief Evaluation Officer, said that a good response to mobile planetariums in rural schools has encouraged the department to extend the project to all districts of the state. This, he says, will strengthen learning and ensure every child continues to experience the wonder of science.



Students from a government school at the Mobile Digital Planetarium, introduced by the Karnataka Science and Technology Promotion Society through the Shaale Angaladalli Taralaya programme.

Czar calls the shots in main event

MYSURU RESULTS

Czar, from the stables of Arjun Mangalorkar and ridden by Mukesh Kumar, won the Dr R Rajendra Prasad Memorial Trophy, the feature event of the Mysuru races on Wednesday.

1. Pattadakal Plate - 1600M: Lead Singer (Prabhakaran) 1; Gentleman's Word (Akash Agarwal) 2; Aluring Beauty (C Umesh) 3; The Welcome (Ramesh Kumar) 4; WB: 1-1/2, 4, 2-3/4L; T: 1:40.03; TB: R Yogesh; Fav: Alluring Beauty.

2. Sahyadri Plate (Div II) - 1400M: Sira (N Darshan) 1; Natural Speed (Ankit Pal) 2; Nozomi (Mukesh Kumar) 3; Ocean Of Grace (S Imran) 4; WB: 1/2, 1/2, 5L; T: 1:26.04; TB: M Eshwer; Fav: Nozomi.

3. Fame And Glory Plate - 1200M: Choice (N Darshan) 1; Cool Winter (Anil Baandal) 2; City Of Hustle (J Chinoy) 3; Gimme (Alex Rozario) 4; WB: Lnk, 3/4, 1/2L; T:1:12.66; TB: Mandanna; Fav: Cool Winter.

4. Sahyadri Plate (Div I) - 1400M: Selma (Anil Baandal) 1; Elegant Time (R Ravi) 2; Polar Wind (N Darshan) 3; Toscana (Afsar Khan) 4; NR: D Roman Power & Dabeet; WB: Lnk, 3, 1-1/2L; T: 1:25.78; TB: JS Pillay; Fav: Elegant Time.

5. Dr R Rajendra Prasad Memorial Trophy - 1200M: Czar (Mukesh Kumar) 1; Aldgate (Antony Raj) 2; Decacorn (Asirvatham) 3; Gold Kite (J Chinoy) 4; WB: 2, S2, 1L; T: 1:10.89; TB: Arjun Mangalorkar; Fav: Aldgate.

6. Sangam Plate - 1600M: Seeking Alpha (S Imran) 1; Natural Warrior (K Rajesh) 2; Magic Circle (Jitendra Singh) 3; Tignanello (Mukesh Kumar) 4; WB: 8-1/2, 1, 1L; T: 1:36.96; TB: Michel Eshwer; Fav: Seeking Alpha.

7. Bandipur Plate - 1100M: Flashing Famous (Akash Agarwal) 1; Kenna (Mubarak) 2; River Of Gold (Gagandeep Mann) 3; Felicita (Sachin) 4; NR: Authentic Bell; WB: 3/4, 1, 1-1/4L; T: 1:06.37; TB: J Ganesh; Fav: Kenna.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 91w; 27, 13, 13p; Fc: Rs 584; Q: Rs 443; Shp: Rs 29; Thp: Rs 36; Tri: Rs 1,057 & 399; Ex: Rs 20,666 & 8,856.
II race: Rs 63w; 19, 12, 13p; Fc: Rs 208; Q: Rs 92; Shp: Rs 36; Thp: Rs 50; Tri: Rs 343 & 115; Ex: Rs 3,445 & 1,476.
III race: Rs 44w; 13, 10, 18p; Fc: Rs 95; Q: Rs 49; Shp: Rs 38; Thp: Rs 54; Tri: Rs 284 & 123; Ex: Rs 1,934 & 1,205.
IV race: Rs 28w; 11, 11, 15p; Fc: Rs 114; Q: Rs 32; Shp: Rs 32; Thp: Rs 39; Tri: Rs 164 & 85; Ex: Rs 2,349 & 4,027.
V race: Rs 53w; 14, 10, 16p; Fc: Rs 112; Q: Rs 58; Shp: Rs 21; Thp: Rs 31; Tri: Rs 333 & 220; Ex: Rs 598 & 277.
VI race: Rs 17w; 10, 67, 34p; Fc: Rs 2,413; Q: Rs 1,056; Shp: Rs 246; Thp: Rs 60; Tri: Rs 4,771 & 2,044; Ex: Rs 53,390 (c/o).
VII race: Rs 46w; 20, 11, 24p; Fc: Rs 94; Q: Rs 41; Shp: Rs 32; Thp: Rs 63; Tri: Rs 1,140 & 595; Ex: Rs 1,28,739.
Jackpot: Rs 5,486 (44). **Runner-up:** Rs 581 (178). **I treble:** Rs 1,201 (41).
II treble: Rs 844 (66).

Golden Dancer for main event

MUMBAI SELECTIONS

Golden Dancer, from the stables of Dallas Todywalla and to be ridden by Sandesh, will garner the maximum support in the small field of four runners in the fray for the KM Munshi Cup, the feature event of the Mumbai races to be run over a distance of nine furlongs at the races on Thursday. The first race starts at 2 pm.

1. Fair Flight Plate - 1400M: Alexandria 1, Daianne 2, Whatsinaname 3.
2. Aristos Plate - 2000M: Miracle Of Hanukah 1, Viking 2, Magical Moments 3.
3. Bejan Bharucha Plate - 1000M: Moment Of Madness 1, Adonis 2, Untitled 3.
4. KM Munshi Cup - 1800M: Golden Dancer 1, Tiepolo 2.
5. Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy (VI BART) Trophy - 1000M: Menorca 1, Phantom Strike 2, Lucky Diamond 3.
6. Dr Jagjit Singh Trophy - 1200M: Silver Strike 1, Applause 2, Zephyr 3.
7. Rajasthan Royals Plate - 1600M: Merchant Of Venice 1, Allez L Etoile 2, South Beach 3.
Day's best: Miracle Of Hanukah.
Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. **Treble:** 4, 5 & 6.

Bhuvan claims six-for to power Modern CC to 7-wicket win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bhuvan Shekhar Gowda sizzled with a six-wicket haul to power Modern Cricket Club to a seven-wicket win over Whirlwind Cricketers in the KSCA Group I - I, II & III Division under-14 inter-club tournament here.

LOCAL CRICKET

Brief scores: Modern Cricket Club: 81 all out in 30.2 overs (Bhuvan Shekhar Gowda 6-21, Paavan Krishna 2-18, Kruthik Narendra 2-20) lt to Whirlwind Cricketers: 82/3 in 14.3 overs (Rithvik MU 30, Ashwin Y 34 n.o.; Mohammed Faraaz Sharif 2-18).
Cambridge Cricket Club: 111 all out in 29 overs (Jash Karia 35, Rishi Rege 31, Samrat Aditya P 3-40, Tejas Sudhindra Bhat 6-35) lt to Swastic Union Cricket Club (1): 115 for no loss in 18 overs (Hrithvik Shetty 46 n.o., Samarth Suresh 62 n.o)Jawans Cricket Club: 172/9 in 50 overs (Reyansh Kapoor 37, Shreyansh Kothiyal 28; Kirthan N Reddy 3-26) bt Jupiter Cricketers Association: 142 all out in 36.5 overs (Krithvik S 36; Advay Mehrotra 3-21, Shreyansh Kothiyal 3-23, Arghya Poddar 3-14).
Visweswarapuram Cricket Club (2): 70 all out in 17.5 overs (P Md Ashish 5-26, Tanuj M 3-7) lt to Vultures Cricket Club: 71/1 in 6.5 overs (Suyog Gowda S 28 n.o., Jagan Mohan V 35 n.o.).
Century Cricketers: 251/7 in 50 overs (Ayush 30, Sachith Shetty 129, Shubhan Hiremath 26, Laksh Manickam 25 n.o.; Krishna Verma 2-38) bt Chintamani Sports Association, Chintamani: 155 all out in 38.1 overs (Aarav R P 26, Raghav K Kumar 42; Laksh Manickam 3-20, Sathyajith KS 2-15, Lalitaditya G 2-19).
Jolly Cricketers: 125 all out in 34.4 overs (Manvik Mandanna PB 38; Utkarsh Agrawal 2-15, Tanish Bennuri 3-18, Panav Chawla 3-25) lt to Jayanagar United Cricketers: 129/2 in 20 overs (Shoubhit Shreyan Pani 74, Nathanael A Easudass 2-13).
Vijaya Cricket Club, Malur: 232/6 in 50 overs (Vihaan Sudhan 27, Aerit Singh 47, Anjan Reddy N 96; Rohit Reddy Tallapureddy 2-25) bt Young Pioneer Cricket Club: 172 all out in 42.3 overs (Prathviraj Choudhary 66; Vivaan P Jana 5-33, Varnith ND 2-32, Akshit Dey 2-8).

FOOTBALL PREMIER LEAGUE

Haaland breaches century mark

City striker becomes the fastest to do so in EPL

LONDON, AFP

Erling Haaland made history as the Manchester City striker became the fastest player to reach 100 Premier League goals in a remarkable 5-4 win against Fulham on Tuesday.

Haaland's clinical finish in the first half at Craven Cottage took him to his century in just 111 league appearances for City.

He shattered the previous record set by former Newcastle and Blackburn star Alan Shearer, who took 124 matches to reach 100 goals.

After Haaland's landmark, Phil Foden scored twice to help City race into a 5-1 lead.

But Fulham scored three times in a furious second-half fightback that fell just short when Josh King's shot was cleared off the line by Josko Gvardiol in the final seconds.

Second-placed City moved within two points of leaders Arsenal, who host Brentford in their game in hand on Wednesday.

"It's incredible, impressive. He was outstanding, today he was unbelievable. He made a fantastic goal. Hopefully, he's starving hungry to continue with this club to make more and more goals," City boss Pep Guardiola said of Haaland.

Yet after squandering a two-goal advantage in their last-gasp 3-2 win against Leeds on Saturday, Guardiola was alarmed by the latest meltdown from his leaky defence.

"Of course, I was concerned. But this will help us in future games. Every game is a new team for some players. You have to make a process to start to correct," he said.

If City are to overhaul Arsenal and win the seventh English title of the Guardiola era, they will need Haaland to maintain his astonishingly prolific form.

Haaland had failed to score in his previous three games against Newcastle, Bayer Leverkusen and Leeds.

The 25-year-old, signed from Borussia Dortmund in 2022, ended that mini-drought with the latest milestone in his glittering City career.

Haaland produced a sumptuous finish to put City ahead in the 17th minute, giving him 15 league goals this term and 20 in all competitions.

Jeremy Doku's precise cutback arrowed towards Haaland and he timed his run perfectly to unleash a ferocious blast that whistled past Fulham keeper Bernd Leno from 12 yards.

Manchester City's Erling Haaland (right) scores the opening goal in their 5-4 win over Fulham at Craven Cottage on Tuesday night. REUTERS

Haaland turned from scorer to provider in the 37th minute as City doubled their lead with another eye-catching effort.

Showing strength and poise in equal measure, Haaland worked space to clip a pin-point pass through to Reijnders and the Dutch midfielder scooped a deft chip over Leno for his first goal since August.

Foden notched City's third in the 44th minute, lashing a superb strike into the top corner from the edge of the area.

Smith Rowe reduced the deficit in first half stoppage-time, steering a header past Gianluigi Donnarumma from Harry Wilson's cross.

But Foden, who also scored twice against Leeds, is back in form and the England star appeared to put the result beyond doubt three minutes after the interval.

The 25-year-old guided a composed finish past Leno from an acute angle after Haaland flicked Doku's pass towards the forward.

City weren't finished and in the 54th minute Doku's curler from the edge of the area deflected in for Sander Berge own goal.

But Guardiola's men completely lost focus after that and Alex Iwobi side-footed home from 18 yards in the 57th minute.When Samuel Chukwueze blasted his first goal for Fulham in the 72nd minute, City began to sweat and their anxiety mounted six minutes later.

Chukwueze squeezed his shot through a crowd of players after Donnarumma failed to deal with a corner.

City finally battened down the hatches in eight minutes of stoppage-time to ensure Haaland's big night wasn't eclipsed.

Results: Bournemouth: 0 lt to Everton: 1 (Grealish 78th); Fulham: 4 (Smith Rowe 45+2, Iwobi 57th, Chukwueze 72nd, 78th) lt to Manchester City: 5 (Haaland 17th, Reijnders 37th, Foden 44th, 48th, Berge 54 og); Newcastle: 2 (Guimaraes 71st, Gordon 86th) drew with Tottenham: 2 (Romero 78th, 90+5).

Indian shooters eye big finish

Bhaker, Esha among favourites for podium finishes

DOHA, PTI

Manu Bhaker

India's top shooters, after a year sprinkled with major milestones and heaps of medals, will look to finish the season on a high at the elite ISSF World Cup Finals, which will commence here on Thursday.

The season-ending competition will see 14 of India's best, including Paris Olympics double-bronze medallist pistol shooter Manu Bhaker, world champion Samrat Rana and multiple World Cup medallist Suruchi Singh, vie for the honours in a field usually restricted to the world's top 12 shooters in the individual section in each event.

In a glorious outing for the country's shooters on the big stage, India came up with a record-breaking show at the World Championships, held in Cairo (pistol/rifle) and Athens (shotgun), where they won 14 medals, including three gold across Olympic and non-Olympic disciplines.

They will now look to convert that success in the World Cup Final, which not just gives winners the bragging rights but also comes loaded with attractive prize money of Euro 5,000, 4,000 and 2,000 for the gold, silver and bronze medallist respectively, in each category.

Two of India's top pistol shooters, Manu and Esha Singh will be among the favourites for podium finishes in 10m air and 25m sports pistol after they made the top-12 on the basis of their ranking and performance in the World Cups and World Championship.

The men's 10m air pistol event will have the newly-crowned champion in Cairo recently, the Karnal-born Samrat Rana as well as Baghpat's Varun Tomar, who took the bronze as India made history by taking two podium spots in the showpiece event.

Squad: Men: 10m air pistol: Samrat Rana, Varun Tomar. **10m air rifle:** Rudrankksh Patil, Arjun Babuta. **25m rapid-fire pistol:** Anish Bhanwala, Vijayveer Sidhu. **50m rifle 3P:** Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar. **Trap:** Zoravar Sandhu.
Women: 10m air pistol: Suruchi Singh, Manu Bhaker, Esha Singh. **10m air rifle:** Elavenil Valarivan. **25m pistol:** Manu Bhaker, Simranpreet Kaur, Esha Singh. **50m rifle 3P:** Sift Kaur Samra.

Serena denies return to tennis

LONDON, AFP

Serena

Serena Williams insisted on Tuesday she had no plans to make a return to tennis after her registration with the sport's drug-testing body sparked reports of a dramatic comeback.

The 23-time Grand Slam singles champion has not competed since a third-round loss at the 2022 US Open left her one short of the all-time record of 24 Grand Slam singles titles, held by Margaret Court in the women's game and Novak Djokovic in men's tennis.

"It is correct that she is back on the Registered Testing Pool list," Adrian Bassett, a spokesman for the International Tennis Integrity Agency, the sport's drug-testing body told AFP in London on Tuesday in response to media reports the 44-year-old American had registered.

"At this stage we have no other information."

But Williams denied she was planning a return to competitive tennis by posting later Tuesday on X: "Omg (Oh My God) yall (you all) I'm NOT coming back. This wildfire is crazy".

Following her three-set defeat by Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic at Flushing Meadows three years ago, Williams said she did not want to use the word "retiring" but instead explained she was "evolving" away from tennis.

Players who decide to return to testing need to provide information about their time and locations when they are available to give samples.

They also need to complete testing for six months before they are allowed to return to competition.

Barcelona pack a punch

BARCELONA, AFP: Barcelona produced an impressive comeback to beat Atletico Madrid 3-1 on Tuesday and move four points clear at the top of La Liga, with coach Hansi Flick saying his side had taken a step forward after some shaky performances.

Alex Baena fired Atletico ahead but Raphinha equalised for the champions before Dani Olmo and Ferran Torres struck to end the visitors' run of 13 straight league games without defeat.

Barca might have been more comfortable had Robert Lewandowski not ballooned a first half penalty over the bar at the partially rebuilt Camp Nou.

Real Madrid, second, visit Athletic Bilbao on Wednesday aiming to peg Barca back, while Diego Simeone's Atletico are fourth, six points behind the Catalans.

"We will see but this was one of the best matches from us, I really appreciate what I saw over the 90 minutes," Flick told reporters.

Result: Barcelona: 3 (Raphinha 26th, Olmo 65th, Torres 90+7) bt Atletico Madrid: 1 (Baena 19th).

India go down 1-3 to Germany

SANTIAGO, PTI: Hina Bano **(in pic)** scored the lone goal as the Indian junior women's hockey team suffered a 1-3 defeat against Germany in its second match at the FIH Junior Women's World Cup campaign here on Wednesday.

Lena Frerichs (5'), Annika Schönhoff (52') and Martina Reisenegger (59') got on the scoresheet for Germany. It was a high-intensity start to the contest, with both teams eager to assert their dominance early on.

Pressing high up the field, Germany pushed India onto the back foot in the opening exchanges and earned a penalty stroke in the fifth minute. Lena Frerichs (5') made no mistake from the spot, handing her side a 1-0 lead.

Despite the early setback, India gradually settled into their rhythm and began to create opportunities of their own.

Result: India 1: (Bano Hina 58th) lt to Germany: 3 (Lena Frerichs 5th, Annika Schonhoff 52nd, Martina Reisenegger 59th).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U R RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
HAL Airport Road, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore - 560 017
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
(Phone : 080 25084168, 4175, 4169) (Fax:080 25084155)
BRIEF CORRIGENDUM-I NOTICE

1. On behalf of President of India, item rate tender is invited for the following work.

Description	Details
Name of work	Miscellaneous HVAC and Compressed Air Piping works in various labs at Main Campus, URSC, Vimanapura, Bengaluru-560017
E-Tender Notice	URSC/C and MG/ACMD/0048/ETN-04/2025-26 Dt.23.10.2025
Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 23.68 Lakhs
Tender Document Details	**E-Tender**
Period of completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	180 days / 06 months
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.	Extended upto 16:30 Hrs. on 09.12.2025
Bid clarification	Extended upto 17:00 Hrs. on 10.12.2025
Last date and time of reply to Bid clarification.	Upto 17.00hrs on 11.12.2025
Last date and time for receipt of tenders.	Upto 14:30 Hrs. on 15.12.2025
Due date and time of opening of tenders.	After 15:00 Hrs. on 15.12.2025
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**₹ 47,360/- (Validity for 180 days)**

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.

Sd/-
Group Director (Construction & Maintenance Group)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ
ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ–562 101
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಛೇರಿ: 08156–295427 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 08156–295427
ಇಮೇಲ್:eemidcbpura@gmail.com

ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಾಸಬ/ತಾಂಶಾ/ತಾಂಸ/ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್/2058/2025–26 ದಿ:01/12/2025

ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ ಪ್ರೀ ಕ್ವಾಲಿಫಿಕೇಶನ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 14/2025–26, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10/11/2025. ರಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದ 4702 ಏತ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಏಕೈಕ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನೂ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಜನ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವ ಹಿತದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕೆರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಉಳಿದ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ : 05/12/2025 ರಂದು ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ವೃತ್ತ, ಜಯನಗರ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ, ಜಯನಗರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯೋಜಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ 09/12/2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 11/12/2025 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದಲ್ಲಿ). ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ – 08156–295427 ಮತ್ತು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 91–8068948777 ಮತ್ತು 91–8046010000 ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್
ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ.

Town Panchayat Yelburga Dist:Koppal
Website : www.yelburgatown.mrc.gov.in Email : itstaff_ulb_yelburga@yahoo.com
No:PPY/Amrut 2.0/Call-3/Tender-2025-26/1679 Dated:-01-12-2025.
E- Procurement Tender (Standaerd Bid Document KW-3)

The Chief Officer, Town Panchayat Yelburga invites On Behalf of President Governor of Karnataka Request for Proposal tenders from the Eligible Bidders for the work as Approved in the Amrut 2.0 Grant for the Year 2025-26. Two Cover Tender Procedure as per the KTTP Act-2000 and Standard Tender Document KW-III Shall be followed. The Tenders are Required to Submit Only through E-Procurement Portal http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in
Package No.1.DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT49922Call-3 **Package Amount (Rs in Lacks):** 55.37 **EMD Amt (in Rs):** 110750.00 **Contractor:** Class II & Above Civil (Gen) **Conditions:** 1) The Last Date for Submission of Bid Through E- Procurement Portal On **10-12-2025** Up to 5.30PM 2) Opening of Technical bid Through E- Procurement Portal On **12-12-2025** at 11.00 AM 3) Opening of Financial bid Through E- Procurement Portal On **17-12-2025** at 11.00AM 4) More Details Can be had from the Office of the Under Signed. or Karnataka E- Procurement Portal http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in 5) Completion Period is 6 Months (including mansoon) 6) As per Govt Order No. PWD65RDF2017, D:11-10-2018 18% of GST Will be paid Seperately to the Contractor. 7) The Power of Accepting or Rejecting the bid is Reserved with under signed.

Sd/-(Basavaraj Tennalli)
Administrator,
Town Panchayat, Yelburga..

Sd/-(Nagesh)
Chief Officer,
Town Panchayat, Yelburga..

DIPR/Koppal/495/KSMCA/2025-26

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-4, 1st Floor, BBMP Building,
Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052. Email:dgm4bswml25@gmail.com
No. DGM-4/BSWML/Tend/03/2025-26/Call-2 Date: 03.12.2025
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) CALL-2 (Through GOK KPPP only)

1) The Deputy General Manager-4, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the **Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru** invites fresh proposals from eligible bidders for the works detailed in the table below. The Bidders may submit tenders for works given in the table through KPPP Portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**. The Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the instructions to bidders to qualify for award of the contract.
2) Tender document may be downloaded from the KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka from 08.12.2025.
3) Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender (Rs. in lakhs) Excluding GST	EMD Amount (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender Document	Contract Completion Period
1	Construction of Public and Community toilets in GBA limits under Swacch Bharath mission 2.0.	**1350.00**	Rs. 13,50,000/-	As per KPPP portal	6 months

Calendar of events: 1. Last Date for receipt of Tenders is **24.12.2025 upto 4.00 p.m. 2.** Last date for uploading queries on KPP portal **12.12.2025 upto 4.00 p.m. 3.** Pre-Bid Meeting under the Chairmanship of Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager (tech), **BSWML on 15.12.2025 at 3.00 p.m at Meeting Hall,** BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru - 52. **4.** Date of Opening of Technical bids are on **29.12.2025 by 4.00 p.m. or next working day. 5.** Opening of financial bids will be intimated to technically qualified bidders.
Terms and Conditions: 1. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the Tenderers of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Tenderers. It is the Tenderers responsibility to verify the KPP portal for the latest information related to the tender, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is **hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com**. KPP Portal help desk telephone numbers are: 080-22371090/22373788. The tenderer is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders. **2.** The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of KPPP portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches. **3.** Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the KPPP portal only.

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/4172/AAA/2025-26 **Deputy General Manager-4, BSWML.**

Public Works Department,
Office of the Executive Engineer,
PWD Bengaluru Division, 2nd Floor,
PWD Annexure Building, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560001
Ph:080-22133370, e-mail: eepwdbngdn@yahoo.com
e-portal: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home
Short-Tender Notification No. 39/2025-26 Date: 02.12.2025

Item-rate tenders, for the work in PWD **Devanahalli, Hoskote, Anekal & North Sub Division** under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPP.

Tender Notification are Published **for 09 works (Rs. 6.00 Lakhs to Rs. 110.00 Lakhs).** Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. **EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP Portal.**

For Sl.No.01 to 07:

1. Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **4.00 PM on Dated 10.12.2025.**
2. The opening of tenders through KPP portal **on 11.12.2025 at 4.30 PM** or further date and time will be intimated.

For Sl.No.08 to 09:

1. Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **4.00 PM on 18.12.2025.**
2. The opening of tenders through KPP portal **on 19.12.2025 at 4.30 PM** or further date and time will be intimated.

For more details contact this office.

DIPR/DD-CP/4170/KSMCA/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

Government of Karnataka
Town Municipal Council, Shiralakoppa – 577428
Hirekerur Road, Opposite Government Public School, Shiralakoppa, Shikaripura (Tq), Shivamogga District
web: www.shiralakoppa.mrc.gov.in
e-mail:ka.shirlakoppa.tmc@gmail.com
No. :TMCShiralakoppa/PA/CR/10/2025-26 Date : 02.12.2025
Re-Tender Notice (Only through Karnataka Government Public Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

A re-tender is invited through the Karnataka Government Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in under the provisions of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act, 2000 (Ordinance 1999-2000) for the outsourcing of human resource services required for the management of solid waste within the limits of Town Municipal Council, Shiralakoppa , Shivamogga (District). For details, interested contractors/agencies may visit the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in .

Sl.No. 1. Work Name: Annual Term Tender for supply of Manpower for Solid Waste Management services to Town Municipal Council, Shiralakoppa on outsource basis. **Indent Number**: DMA/2025-26/SE6306/CALL-3 **Amount**: Rs 56.50 Lakh

***)** Last date for obtaining information about the tender: 16.12.2025 up to 4.00 PM ***)** Last date for submission of tender: 17.12.2025 up to 5.25 PM ***)** Date of opening of technical bids: 18.12.2025 at 5.30 PM ***)** Date of opening of financial bid: 19.12.2025 at 4.00 PM

Sd/– Chief Municipal Officer, Town Municipal Council, Shiralakoppa.
DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/05/12/1319

Akshath turns hero with match-saving ton

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka's Akshath Prabhakar scored a match-saving century on Day 3 of their elite Group C match against Andhra, taking the group toppers to 392 all out after resuming on the overnight score of 176/5 at the BCCI Cooch Behar Trophy in Ananthapur.

Akshath scored 112 (11 fours and three sixes) after Siddharth Akhil (83) and Rehan Mohammed (26) saw off the tricky morning spell to take the Karnataka total past 200. The duo, however, fell in quick succession after the new ball was due.

Akshath then frustrated the Andhra bowlers in a 124-run stand with another tailender Dhyaan Hiremath (47), limiting the impact of a five-wicket haul by Siddu Karthik Reddy (5/107)..

Brief scores: AP: 415 all out & 36/2 in 18.1 overs vs Karnataka: (O/n: 176/5): 392 all out in 148.1 overs (Dhruv Krishnan 28, Manikanth Shivanand 56, Siddharth A 83, Rehan Mohammed 26, Akshath Prabhakar 112, Dhyaan Hiremath 47; Siddu Karthik Reddy 5-107, N Rajesh 2-100, Anv Lohith 2-86).

Income Tax FC seal the deal

BENGALURU, DHNS: Darin Marcel Christopher, Prashanth Kalinga and Shilton Dsilva scored a goal each as Income Tax FC defeated RWF FC 3-1 in the BDFA A Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Wednesday.

Darin opened the scoring for Income Tax in the 14th minute to break the deadlock, while Prashanth (29th) doubled their tally to go into the break with a 2-0 cushion.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Results: (On Wednesday): A Division: Income Tax FC: 3 (Darin Marcel Christopher 14th, Prashanth Kalinga 29th, Shilton Dsilva 90th+4) bt RWF FC: 1 (Rajesh S 90th+1).
On Tuesday: Roots FS: 2 (Mikhail Fernandes 12th, Sparsh Desai 58th) bt Sree Gajannana FC: 1 (B Niroshan Mani 79th); Stride FC: 3 (Iainehlang Mawblei 42nd, Shibin P 60th, Ginneithang Gangte 71st) bt AGORC FC: 0; BTM FC: 3 (Sochan Shatsang 6th, Maneyeesh RK 10th, Niranjai Babu 29th) bt Sniper FC: 3 (Tejas Vikram 15th, Don Davis 81st, 90+7).
B Division: Group A : Empire FC: 8 (Abhinand 9th, 14th, JanggunLen Haokip 23rd, Sachin Kumar S 26th, 58th, 80th, Muhammed Ijas M 51st, Sanjeev Denver Narohnha 63rd); MD Sporting FC: 0 drew with Vehicles FC: 0.

Duffy gives NZ the edge

CHRISTCHURCH, AFP: A five-wicket haul by Jacob Duffy gave New Zealand a 64-run first-innings lead over the West Indies after the tourists were all out for 167 on Wednesday.

Brief scores: New Zealand (O/n: 231/9): 231 all out in 70.3 overs (Kane Williamson 52, Tom Blundell 29, Michael Bracewell 47; Roach 2-47, Jayden Seales 2-44, Ojay Shields 2-34, Justin Greaves 2-35) & 32/0 in 7 overs vs West Indies: 167 all out in 75.4 overs (Tagenarine Chanderpaul 52, Shai Hope 56; Matt Henry 3-43, Zak Foulkes 2-32, Duffy 5-34).

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

1st Test: New Zealand vs West Indies, **(Day 3, 3:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 1** and **FanCode**.

Ashes 2nd Test: Australia vs England, Day 1 **(9:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports 1** and **JioHotstar**.

SMAT: Assam vs Vidarbha, Chandigarh vs UP, Tamil Nadu vs Tripura **(all 11:00 am)**; Odisha vs Railways, Madhya Pradesh vs Maharashtra, Jharkhand vs Uttarakhand **(all 4:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network** and **JioHotstar**.

FOOTBALL

AIFF Super Cup semifinals: East Bengal vs Punjab FC **(3:50 pm)**, FC Goa vs Mumbai City **(7:50 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Khel** and **JioHotstar**.

HOCKEY

Women's Jr World Cup: Chile vs Malaysia **(4:45 am)**, China vs Austria **(7:45 pm)**, Canada vs Scotland **(10:00 pm)**, Zimbabwe vs Wales **(12:15 am, Thursday)**, Spain vs Australia **(2:30 am, Thursday)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 2** and **JioHotstar**.

Men's Jr World Cup Classification round: Namibia vs Austria **(9:00 am)**, Bangladesh vs Oman **(11:20 am)**, South Korea vs Egypt **(2:00 pm)**, China vs Canada **(4:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 1** and **JioHotstar**.

CRICKET SECOND ODI

Clinical Aiden makes a mark

Opener's ton, fifties from Breetzke and Brevis help SA ace high-scoring chase

RAIPUR, PTI

Virat Kohli's 53rd ODI ton and Ruturaj Gaikwad's maiden century were eclipsed by a collective effort from South Africa in a steep run chase, giving the visitors a series levelling four wicket-win in the second ODI against India here on Wednesday.

Chasing 359, South Africa rode on a brilliant century from Aiden Markram (110), a brutal 34-ball 54 (1x4s, 5x6s) from Dewald Brevis and Matthew Breetzke's 68 to get over the line in another resilient effort with the bat.

The series-deciding third and final ODI will be played in Visakhapatnam on Saturday.

India's job was far from done even after putting a daunting total on board as heavy dew in the second half not only made spinners' job tougher, but poor returns from Prasidh Krishna (2/79) did not help their cause.

Prasidh, who had broken a second-wicket century partnership earlier by dismissing Temba Bavuma (46), got it right finally to pin Breetzke leg-before late in the game, and soon after, Arshdeep Singh (2/54) removed the dangerous Marco Jansen (2), but Corbin Bosch (29 not out off 15) and Keshav Maharaj (10 not out off 14) took the Proteas over the line with four balls to spare.

Aiden Markram scored a brilliant hundred to help South Africa draw level against India in the second ODI in Raipur on Wednesday. AFP

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Jaiswal c Bosch b Jansen	22
Rohit c de Kock b Burger	14
Kohli c Markram b Ngidi	102
Gaikwad c de Zorzi b Jansen	105
Rahul (not out)	66
Sundar (run out)	1
Jadeja (not out)	24
Extras (LB-4, W-20)	24
TOTAL (for 5 wkts, 50 overs)	**358**

Fall of wickets: 1-40, 2-62, 3-257, 4-284, 5-289.
Bowling: Burger 6.1-0-43-1, Ngidi 10-1-51-1, Jansen 10-0-63-2, Maharaj 10-0-70-0, Bosch 8-0-79-0, Markram 5.5-0-48-0.

SOUTH AFRICA

Markram c Gaikwad b Harshit	110
de Kock c Washington b Arshdeep	8
Bavuma c Harshit b Prasidh	46
Breetzke lbw Prasidh	68
Brevis c Jaiswal b Kuldeep	54
de Zorzi retd hurt	17
Jansen c Gaikwad b Arshdeep	2
Bosch (not out)	29
Maharaj (not out)	10
Extras (B-1, LB-5, NB-1, W-10)	18
TOTAL (for 6 wkts, 49.2 overs)	**.362**

Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-127, 3-197, 4-289, 5-317, 6-332.
Bowling: Arshdeep 10-0-54-2, Harshit 10-0-70-1, Pradsidh 8.2-0-85-2, Washington 4-0-28-0, Jadeja 7-0-41-0, Kuldeep 10-0-78-1.
Result: SA won by 4 wkts.
Series: SA level three-match series. 1-1. **PoM:** Aiden Markram.
Next match: Dec 6 (Visakhapatnam).

India's job was far from done even after putting a daunting total on board as heavy dew in the second half not only made spinners' job tougher, but poor returns from Prasidh Krishna (2/79) did not help their cause.

Prasidh, who had broken a second-wicket century partnership earlier by dismissing Temba Bavuma (46), got it right finally to pin Breetzke leg-before late in the game, and soon after, Arshdeep Singh (2/54) removed the dangerous Marco Jansen (2), but Corbin Bosch (29 not out off 15) and Keshav Maharaj (10 not out off 14) took the Proteas over the line with four balls to spare.

Markram was in his elements utilising a flat deck under lights to notch up his maiden century against India and providing South Africa a heavy contribution from the top to push on.

He took the initiative in the opening partnership and even though he lost Quinton de Kock (8) early with Arshdeep drawing first blood, Markram found a stable partner in Bavuma to put on 101 for the second wicket.

Markram had to remain the aggressor as Bavuma farmed the strike from the other end. Markram pierced gaps at will with brute force as well as some artistry. He also hit through the line and over the bowlers' head to clear the ropes while using the feet well against Indian spinners, with heavy dew making their job even more difficult as the innings progressed.

But the opener also had luck favouring him when a powerful hit off Kuldeep Yadav towards long on saw the ball going through Yashasvi Jaiswal's hands for a six.

Had the catch been taken, Markram's charge would've ended on 53.

Markram eventually fell off a short off-cutter from Harshit Rana (1/70) but his dismissal had Brevis and Breetzke teaming up, who waltzed to 92 off the next 64 balls to put South Africa in complete control.

While Brevis fell after his quick fifty which featured some massive sixes , Breetzke made a composed 68 for a second consecutive half-century.

Incidentally, it was only the second occasion where India lost an ODI despite scoring in excess of 350, with the first instance being against Australia in March 2019 when they lost by a similar margin of four wickets despite making 358/9 at Mohali.

Earlier, Kohli's successive hundred, maiden century from Gaikwad (105) and KL Rahul's quickfire 66 not out propelled India to a formidable 358 for five. Kohli (102 off 93 balls, 7x4s, 2x6s) and Gaikwad (105 off 83 balls, 12x4s, 2x6s) reset the record for highest third-wicket stand for India in ODIs against South Africa as their 195-run association built the platform for the hosts to launch themselves into a big score.

Gill, Hardik return for SA T20Is

The vice-captain's fitness is subject to CoE clearance

RAIPUR, PTI

Flamboyant all-rounder Hardik Pandya and star batter Shubman Gill on Wednesday returned to the Indian T20I squad for the upcoming five-match series against South Africa after recovering from their respective injuries.

Gill, who missed a major part of the Test series and the ODIs against South Africa due to a neck injury, has been picked for the T20 games as vice-captain after recovering from his condition.

Gill's participation, however, is subject to fitness clearance from the BCCI Centre of Excellence, the board said in a statement.

Pandya, who missed the Asia Cup 2025 final and the five-match series in Australia, also made a comeback in India's setup after proving his fitness on Tuesday during the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy match against Punjab in Hyderabad.

Hardik Pandya. AFP

FIXTURES

- **1st T20I: Dec 9 (Cuttack)**
- 2nd T20I: Dec 11 (New Chandigarh)
- **3rd T20I: Dec 14 (Dharamsala)**
- 4th T20I: Dec 17 (Lucknow)
- **5th T20I: Dec 19 (Ahmedabad)**

Gill, who is India's Test and ODI skipper, sustained the injury during the opening Test against the Proteas in Kolkata.

India squad: Suryakumar Yadav (c), Shubman Gill (VC)*, Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Jitesh Sharma (WK), Sanju Samson (WK), Jasprit Bumrah, Varun Chakaravarthy, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Washington Sundar.

T20 WC jersey launched

The Indian team jersey for the 2026 T20 World Cup was revealed during the second ODI against South Africa on Wednesday, reports PTI from Raipur.

The 10th edition of the T20 World Cup will be held from February 7 to March 8 across eight venues in India and Sri Lanka.

Defending champions India are placed in Group A along with arch-rivals Pakistan, USA, Netherlands and Namibia. India will take on the USA in their tournament opener in Mumbai on February 7.

The jersey was unveiled by former India captain Rohit Sharma.

Pink-ball kings Aussies buzzing with confidence

BRISBANE, AFP

England head into Thursday's day-night second Ashes Test against pink-ball masters Australia needing a rare victory at Brisbane's Gabba to get back into the five-match series.

Travis Head's whirlwind century as a makeshift opener carried Australia to an eight-wicket victory inside two days in Perth as they went 1-0 up.

The hosts are again without captain Pat Cummins and fellow quick Josh Hazlewood, leaving swing king Mitchell Starc, who is expected to be a force in humid Brisbane under lights, to carry the attack.

England, who capitulated in four frantic hours in Perth from a winning position, cannot afford to slip 2-0 down with three matches to play if they are to have realistic hopes of regaining the urn.

They will be without their own pace spearhead, Mark Wood, who is nursing a knee injury. He was replaced by off-spinner Will Jacks, who will bolster the batting, in an otherwise unchanged team named on Tuesday.

Australia's Mitchell Starc will be looking to wreak more havoc on England in the Brisbane Test starting Thursday.

LIVE 9:30 AM STAR SPORTS

Captain Ben Stokes says England have moved on from Perth and are not scarred by past results but they face a formidable weight of history in Brisbane, where they have been holding extra training sessions this week. England have not won a Test in Australia since their 2010-11 tour, losing 14 and drawing two.

Moreover, they have not triumphed at the Gabba for 39 years and have lost all three previous day-nighters against the hosts.

Australia thrive under lights, winning 13 of the 14 pink-ball Tests they have played worldwide, but England will take encouragement from the sole defeat coming at the Gabba against the West Indies a year ago.

"On an evening it does seem to do a little bit more, especially if you have a slightly newer ball," said England fast bowler Brydon Carse after a night session in the nets on Tuesday.

Steve Smith captains Australia, who must decide how to fill the opening slot vacated by Usman Khawaja who was ruled out Tuesday after failing to recover from back spasms suffered in Perth.

Head is likely to again move up alongside Jake Weatherald, with seaming all-rounder Beau Webster coming into the side at number six with Cameron Green moving up to five.

Marnus Labuschagne filled in as an opener for Khawaja in the first innings at Perth.

"It's just game-by-game, and you work out what's your best team and how does it best work for the game," Labuschagne said.

Kohli's Delhi to play in Bengaluru

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

When Virat Kohli (**in pic**) confirmed his availability for the upcoming Vijay Hazare Trophy, it wasn't just great news for his State side Delhi but his 'second home' Bengaluru too. Delhi, who are pitted in Group D for the national one-day championship starting on December 24, will play all their games in the Garden City.

But there's a catch. It's still not clear whether fans will be able to watch the batting supremo, who has forged a strong bond with them owing to his association with Royal Challengers Bengaluru since IPL's inception in 2008.

Delhi have been scheduled to play five of their seven group games at the Alur grounds which is normally out of bounds for fans. The remaining two fixtures are the M Chinnaswamy Stadium but with the iconic venue currently in the dock, it remains to be seen if the KSCA officials could convince the State government to allow spectators.

Knowing their hero Kohli is going to play, it's certain thousands will gather at Alur and Chinnaswamy to catch a glimpse of him.

The last time Kohli chose to play domestic cricket was in the Ranji Trophy in January against Railways this year that turned the Arun Jaitley Stadium into a festive atmosphere. Fans packed the historic venue in thousands, forcing the organisers to open up more stands.

Kohli's last appearance in Vijay Hazare Trophy was in February 2010.

Team Brijesh Patel looks to tap into Tier-2 city talents

SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS: Team Brijesh Patel, which will be led by presidential candidate KN Shanth Kumar, Director of The Printers (Mysore) Private Limited that publishes Deccan Herald and Prajavani, reiterated that the team was committed to giving more opportunities to talents from rural areas.

While emphasising that the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) aimed to provide training, build indoor stadiums and promote cricket at the school level in the state's second-tier cities, the Shanth Kumar led-team said: "The Under-12 tournament organised in Bengaluru would also be expanded to other parts of the state. After his nomination paper was rejected by the Elections Officer for the post of KSCA president, Shanth Kumar approached the High Court which declared his candidature valid.

With "over thirty years of experience in various sectors, he would like to lead the KSCA administration as one unit and wants to proceed with everyone's vote of confidence.

"I have experience of working as a sportsperson, administrator and promoter for three and a half decades, and I will lead the KSCA administration as a team. I will take everyone into confidence and move forward," he said.

Shanth Kumar further said that 'Team Brijesh Patel' would like to enhance training facilities, build indoor stadiums and also promote cricket at the school level in Tier-2 cities.

Brijesh Patel, a veteran administrator at the KSCA and the BCCI, said that with stadiums in several districts of Karnataka already constructed, they would also take responsibility in constructing stadiums in Tumkuru and Mysuru.

'Aiming to translate Worlds' success at LA Olympics'

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Indian boxing is going through a tricky phase after drawing a blank at the Paris Olympics. Amid high expectations from the likes of Nikhat Zareen and Lovlina Borgohain, who bagged World Championships titles in the build-up to the quadrennial event, the country's boxers have failed to replicate their success where it matters the most.

Boxing Federation of India (BFI) has turned to former men's head coach and high-performance director Santiago Nieva to solve the big puzzle. The 50-year-old Argentine, whose first stint lasted from 2017 to 2021, is all set to join as India's head coach by late December or early January with LA Olympics being the main thing on his agenda.

DH caught up with the coach from Australia, where he is wrapping up his successful stint with the Australian boxing (eight international medals, including two at the Paris Olympics). Excerpts...

After a four-year stint in the past in India and then a successful time in Australia, what brought you back?
I was always in touch with India and BFI recently contacted me and said they are interested in me coming back. Obviously, I have had good years in India and that helped in maintaining good relations. I was myself keen to come back as well, that's why the negotiation went smoothly.

How would you see your stint in Australia and how different was the experience from Indian boxing?
The experience in Australia was amazing. When I came here, I realised we had much less resources than I had in India despite having a strong boxing tradition. When I look back now, I got a very positive environment and that led to the eight medals. The stay has gone beyond my expectations and I feel satisfied.

Newly-appointed boxing head coach Santiago Nieva (right) had a four-year stint in India as high-performance director till the Tokyo Olympics.

Coming back to your upcoming role, how different is your role this time than your previous one as high performance director with the likes of Raffaele Bergamasco (former women's HPD) working with you earlier?
When I arrived last time, I was hired as the elite men's coach and then my role grew to high performance director. The federation was new and wanted to streamline things with a good support from the government. There were so many things to develop. What excites me this time is the amount of boxing talent that exists in India. Performances at the last two World Championships are an example of that. My goal is to translate all that at the LA Olympics.

Will it be right to say this time we are getting Santiago 2.0, who understands the Indian boxing culture and system better than your first stint?
I don't know about that because last time it didn't take me too long to settle in. Of course, there were hurdles but I always believed in seeing the big picture and that made my work smooth. But yes, with all the experience from the past, and my ongoing international boxing experience, I am ready to take on the tremendous project to lead Indian boxing.

Your last stint had big names such as Mary Kom, Sarita Devi among others while the current generation has Nikhat, Lovlina and more. However, the men's boxing, something you were in charge of earlier, seems to be on a downward trend with the likes of Amit Panghal and Shiva Thapa not meeting the expectations in the past couple of years. How do you look to address that?
We need to have success in both men's and women's boxing. There's no reason to think men can't win medals at World Championships and Olympics. In 2023, three men boxers won medals at the World Championships which is why I am hopeful of turning around things and getting medals in both men's and women's.

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com